

# The WEEKLY REPORT

## ANORAKS

*The First with the News in Print*

No. 239....3rd December 1988.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

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**INFO - LINE:** In a three minute message, you can hear up-to-date news on the free radio scene which has occurred since the previous 'Weekly Report' was printed. Currently a limited service is available from 19:00 until 07:00 daily, on Bradford (0274) 480590. This will soon be extended to a full 24 hour operation as soon as Telecom fits new lines.

**DATA PROTECTION:** The act of 1984 says we must tell you that names and addresses are stored on computer. We can remove them if you wish, but it will delay replies.

**NEW MERCHANDISE / GENERAL:** Nothing new this week, but with Christmas fast approaching, it must be pointed out to prospective gift buyers, that certain items on the current merchandise list are being despatched from France and Belgium, which will mean a delay in receiving the goods following the placing of the order. Normally these items are tapes advertised in Offshore Echo's magazine only, but at present, the Ross Revenge Photo Book, the Forts, Atlantis, London and Disco-Queen L.P.'s are also being despatched this way. Please order at once if the item is wanted as a gift for Christmas, as it can take up to 21 days. The French postal strike is now over and further delays are not expected, but time is running short now.

Please order as early as possible if you want any item in time for Christmas, for although we shall despatch at once, we cannot guarantee the overworked post office at this festive time.

Our counterparts in Holland are considering producing a CD documentary about Caroline, featuring present day adverts and promotions. They are wondering what the demand would be like for this new mode of recording. Anyone writing in may like to comment and we can assess the demand from there.

A Medium Wave Loop / Frame Aerial will make a super gift this festive season. With it, one can pull in distant medium wave stations often without the use of an expensive receiver. For just £35, a whole new world of medium wave listening awaits you. We are well stocked in this respect and can guarantee delivery within only a few days.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** Now Radio, Issue 85, with 24 x A5 pages of general radio (only) news, covering legal and un-licensed operators. Priced at £1, the weekly magazine is available from P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants NN16 0NW.... Radiotelex, Issue 138, an 8 pager this time, with SW logs from the past two weeks, featuring the pirates. Also included, SW news, QSL blacklist and QSL review. Recommended for all SW listeners, details of subs. from RT, c/o Duempter Strasse 6, D - 4100 Duisburg 12, W. Germany.

**TAPE OFFER:** We bring you up-to-date this week, rather than looking back into the archives. Sid has a large piece about a new (actually re-activated) station Radio Veronica 102 in this issue. Tape 230 features this said operation on

its test transmission from Sunday, 20th November 1988. Steve Roberts and Gary Stevens can be heard on this particular extract, along with all the golden oldies (and Veronica jingles), mainly from the 1960's era. One of the few non-soul/reggae stations to be heard in London Town. From land, we move out to sea, and Radio Caroline 558. These recordings were made on the morning of Friday 25th November 1988, when the station made special mentions of the 1st anniversary of the collapse of its tower structure. Side A was recorded in Norwich and runs from 07:30 until 08:15, featuring Ian Mack's breakfast show and the extended news feature with Nigel Harris. at 08:00. This has a few bits of interference on it, but is otherwise good quality considering the time of day and signal strength. Side B was recorded in Ipswich, and features from 08:57 until 09:40, again with the news, and then into the Judy Murphy show. For those of you (like us) who were unable to hear this special broadcast, it is certainly one for the collection. Both above cassettes are 90 minutes in length and cost just £2.00 each.

**WANTED:** "I'm not your Stepping Stone" by the Flies (Decca label), also "I Won't Let You Down" by PhD (WEA label). Record preferred, but a cassette recording will do, if no record is forthcoming... Tel: (0253) 882017.

### RADIO STATION NEWS... IRELAND.

Several things have been noted as we enter the final month of Irish free radio (legislation says that all stations will close by midnight on 31st December, otherwise face enormous fines and / or imprisonment for the operators).

1. All the top stations' advertising logs are jam packed full as traders and the like take the final advantage of this less expensive and most certainly effective method of telling the public about their wares and services, etc.
2. Power on some stations seems distinctly down, although poor radio conditions could also be a contributory factor. (This could be a case of 'a full advertising log, why pump out a bigger signal than necessary - as long as the target area is covered - save money, turn the power down').
3. Many stations are running promos asking the listeners to lobby their T.D.'s (M.P.'s) in an effort to get their favourite station legalised. We mentioned ABC in Waterford last week, as one doing this, and this week, we have heard it ourselves on Roscommon Community Radio (1521kHz.) and on Mid / West Radio (1332kHz.) from Ballyhaunis in Co. Mayo. We also understand that Kiss FM in Monaghan have a script ready with such a purpose in mind. We feel sure others out of our listening area are featuring similar promos, and others still, planning such a move. Strangely, neither Dublin super-pirate, Sunshine or Super Q, have been heard with such promos. Perhaps they feel that they are so big that they need not resort to such tactics. Maybe they are right, but as always, only time will tell us the answer.
4. Some stations have been heard featuring extra news bulletins, possibly in readiness for legalisation (the successful legal operators will have 20% of broadcasting hours devoted to news, community affairs, etc.).

Word from the grape-vine tells us that the new Radio Commission is not astounding anyone as yet, with relatively little announced to replace the 60 plus stations currently on air, the majority of them extremely successful. As suggested in this column last week, the answer would be to temporarily license the credible ones until such time that permanent licences could be issued. At this time, less successful operations could be culled and told to close down. As it seems at the moment, many people are going to lose their jobs, in fact it could be in excess of 1,000 people, businesses are going to fold, simply because they are not going to be allowed to function, and the music industry in Ireland is about to be dealt a severe blow, with very little

exposure being able to be given to Irish / country artists. Of course, all this may change and announcements made that stations will be ready for the new year. But time is running very short indeed!

Listening to some of the many successful country stations, made us feel sad to know that within, well days now, this will all end and very little choice will be available on the band, from RTE, certainly not all day country / Irish music.

Many existing U.K. listeners are commenting about the low powers being used on AM, which, coupled with the seasonal ground wave low, is preventing much if anything being heard on this side of the Irish Sea, away from the coast itself. Only Sunshine on 846kHz. and Boyneside on 1305kHz. in this area, with BRI on 1305kHz. further south can be described as reasonable signals during the daytime. In fact, more success is being noted on FM, with many stations heard along the west coast and slightly inland rather a lot lately, as general atmospheric conditions have been good for some weeks now. Stuart in Stone, Staffs. asks if he is the furthest inland listener on FM. He regularly notes Sunshine on 101.5, Q on 99.9 and others, with only a portable set!

Back to the stations themselves now and unusually poor conditions on FM mid week, had us re-tuning to AM, where we noted that Kiss FM were missing on 1413kHz. With 5kw., the station had been having much success at this end of the band, and reports were being received from all over the U.K., at varying times. Words with the station told us that the modulation transformer had burned out, silencing this frequency. 1170kHz. continued however, but only locally and all we could detect here was a 50Hz. off-channel hum. 103.7MHz. was unaffected. Repairs to the mod. transformer could take some time and it now seems unlikely that we shall ever hear that channel active again with the station.

All Dublin AM stations were noted this week, but as said before, with little strength. Community Radio Fingal/Pulsar 98 was as strong as any, on 1575kHz. Radio Dublin were noted on FM by us during a lift last week, however they must be operating on very low power, as they could only just be heard, despite other stations booming in. The frequency was slightly higher than usual, on 105.3MHz. A call today tells us that the station is actually on two FM channels, but we are unsure of the second one. The shortwave outlet on 6910kHz has not been heard for a week or two. Finally on this station, an article in a Dublin newspaper states that Radio Dublin will defy the impending laws, and will indeed go into 'Illegality'. Station owner Eamonn Cooke stated that if the E.S.B. were to attempt to cut off the supply to his operation at 58 Inchicore Road, he would take out a law suit against them. We hope to have this article to print in our next edition. Eamonn was rumoured at one point to be thinking of broadcasting from a ship - only time will tell!

#### OFF-SHORE RADIO STATIONS.

The Voice of Peace. Monday 14th November saw Kenny Page and Gary Cooke coming back from their shore leave. This allowed Brendan Mee and John Johnston (who is leaving the station) to be on dry land for a week. Many of the deejays are currently about to leave. As well as John Johnston, Martin Murphy is going during the first week of December. Also, Mike Davis and Gary Cooke are leaving on 3rd or 4th December and will fly back to the U.K. around 9th of this month. We hear that conditions are the reason for many of the staff leaving. Several new presenters are due out soon, but as yet no names are known. Cooks never last long on the ship. Apparently the last one ordered two bottles of wine for cooking, and then proceeded to get drunk on them. He was subsequently fired! The deckhand Keith Gibson has also left, and so there is currently a shortage of staff all round. Line-up for 20th November was... 00:00 John MacDonald... 03:00 Mike Davis... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 Martin Murphy... 13:00 John MacDonald... 15:00 Abie Nathan's Phone-in... 17:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 Gary Cooke... 19:30 Martin Murphy... 22:00 Gary Cooke.

The new offshore station is now back out at sea after having apparently had transmitter trouble, and back on the air announcing 'test transmissions - channel seven'. On 20th November they were off for 15 minutes at 14:00, but then returned to regular broadcasts.

Radio Caroline 558. Last time we mentioned the special feature after the news, on the first anniversary of the mast collapsing (25th November). For those who could not hear it due to poor band conditions, the following is a transcript

of the story, as read by Nigel Harris.... "The 300 foot radio tower on board the Caroline ship Ross Revenge had stood for six years, and was known by sea-farers far and wide, as one of the most spectacular sights off the southern English coast. For Caroline, the mast enabled high powered reliable transmission on both 558kHz, home of the 24 hour a day English language service, and on 819kHz, where Dutch language and religious programming provided diversity of output, and additional sources of income. The storm which hit the Ross Revenge a year ago, was particularly savage, and at 3am, it became clear that the forces of nature had proved that engineering feats of man to be transient, and must always be the case. No one was injured when the tower collapsed, although the ship became very unstable for a period, and had to be re-ballasted. In addition, the mast when falling, had destroyed vital and expensive equipment, used to enable two separate signals to be fed through one aerial, and this could not be immediately replaced. Within eight days, Caroline had resumed on 558kHz only, with engineers having built a tiny temporary aerial, which put out just enough power to reach the Kent and Essex coastlines. Manned by a skeleton crew of just four people, the Ross Revenge survived through to Christmas and New Year 1988, with just a fraction of its original coverage area and audience. During January, the Caroline crew working outside, often in rough weather and sub-zero temperatures, managed to build two, ninety foot masts, and complete a new temporary aerial system, which enable power to increase, and the coverage area to be extended as far as London and Holland. However, the ship's transmitters were not suited to lower power operation, and technical breakdowns involving periods off air, were common, during Spring and early Summer. In addition, it was not possible to operate any service on 819kHz, as tests of a new design of carbon fibre transmitting mast, failed in April. In July, the decision had to be made reluctantly, to allow the Dutch language station to recommence operations, by surrendering to them, the 558kHz frequency during the daytime, with Caroline then operating only in the evening and overnight. This style of operation lasted for several months, but enabled funds to become available for the purchase of equipment, to enable two separate frequencies to be fed through the aerial once more. So finally, at the beginning of this month, transmissions resumed on 819kHz, with the Dutch moving to this frequency, where evening religious programming was once more able to resume. Caroline is now able to operate as a 24 hour English language music station, and the volume of mail being received, indicates that the audience lost during the last year is quickly being regained. Plans for the future include modification to the aerial, to enable higher power output, so that we can cover all of the south of England, Belgium and Holland. Exactly one year after the disaster, (which many people said would silence Caroline forever), she is alive and kicking, and well on the road to recovery. Next year, Caroline celebrates 25 years on the air, and looks forward to another quarter century of successful broadcasting". An excellent script, the composer of which deserves a pat on the back.

Onto what is actually happening out on the vessel at the present time. A week or so ago, the sections of mast which have been on board for some time, had not been erected, and were still lying along the deck. This apparently was due to lack of other parts and equipment, to install them properly. The staff on the vessel have been waiting eagerly to set to work on the task. However things may now be moving, as the current front tower is understood to be in quite poor condition (it being just an old cod liver oil pipe used during the emergency), and is rusting badly.

Finally this week (the line-up will resume next week when we have more space), the story going around about Ad Roberts quitting the Radio 819 service, and giving out his resignation over the air is indeed true. Ad apparently wrote his resignation speech whilst quite level headed, and when the tender appeared, read it out and jumped ship. It was apparently due to the promised supplies never arriving for long periods, that drove Ad to decide to leave.

We had a few lines to spare, so a little about the staff changes this week. Chuck Cannon seems to have come off, but several more have joined the ranks, including Neil Gate and Dave Fisher. However, the shows are of varying lengths, with some being four hours, and others being just one hour. The station now opens at 04:00, but more details next week.

## LAND-BASED STATIONS....U.K.

**BRISTOL.** The first two weeks of November saw Radio For The People (103.7-stereo) running flat out, 24 hours per day, and still gaining staff. Some programmes have been cut down in length recently to try and accomodate more shows, and there are now few slots more than two hours in length with the exception of the overnight services. As a result, several presenters from the 'Soulforce Crew', whilst retaining their programmes on Radio F.T.P., have broken away into the 'Soulforce Junior Crew', and joined up with some other Bristol deejays to broadcast a new free radio station. As the bonfires began to burn themselves out, just before midnight, Saturday 5th November, Super Fresh Radio (105.1-mono) could be heard with superb audio, but yes -you've guessed it, suffering from the dreaded low microphone levels. "Mix Master M" and DJ Smurf" were hosting the initial transmissions before handing over to "Raw Master Dee" at 01:00. Programmes from this operation ceased in the early hours of Sunday morning (6th), before recommencing at noon. As for the presenters, a few more would appear to be required. The closeness of the two stations was apparent with numerous mentions being given to Radio F.T.P. deejays. Judging by the Fresh signal strength (weaker than any of the other Bristol stations), and the numerous breaks in transmission, the transmitter in use could well be the former B.A.D. Radio tx. (A reference that day by 'Daddy G' of Emergency also points towards this, as he played a record for F.T.P. and B.A.D.). This un-tamed and wild rig, which along with other troublesome equipment caused B.A.D. numerous problems throughout their chequered history, also grounded Super Fresh Radio late on Sunday night. By Monday evening (7th), they had resumed broadcasts on 104.9, before settling on 104.95 on Tuesday. By this point the microphone levels had been improved somewhat. Super Fresh FM was not announcing a mailing address (yet have plenty of dedications), and only operate during the evenings to that old "5 to midnight" schedule.

Technical problems were not confined to Super Fresh that weekend, as during Emergency Radio's (97.9-mono) regular Sunday smash starting at noon, several breaks occurred. As 'Take 5' explained, they were attempting to eliminate the cracking and popping noise around the edges of the signal. This unfortunately they failed to do. The technical difficulties have not stopped advertising coming in, and two new commercials were noted on 6th November.

Open access station Savage Yet Tender radio (104.4-true stereo) now seem to be back to block-busting power again, with the strongest signal of any Bristol alternative stations. Transmissions still commence at 20:00, and on 6th November continued until after midnight. In only two months this station's output has increased four-fold! Programmes were as previously reported, and there didn't appear to be the excessive distasteful material broadcast this time.

Mid-week (10th) saw yet another new station R.A.W. FM (104.95-pilot tone stereo) taking over this slot from the

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short-lived Super Fresh Radio heard only for a few days before. The new station is promising a mailing address for next week. D.J. Spider C of the 'Soulforce Crew', resident at F.T.P. since the station's start way back in February has joined the ranks of R.A.W. Radio. This created a few mis-haps at first, as he got the station names and frequencies confused. Due to transmitter problems, programmes on 104.95 ceased 25 minutes early on Friday eveing (11th), and didn't resume until 17:25 the following afternoon. The rest of that weekend, programmes were not interrupted, and the audio quality was clear. Like B.A.D. Radio during the summer, R.A.W.'s schedule seems to be built around F.T.P., usually providing some good alternatives to that station's musical diet. R.A.W. Radio operates seven days per week.

Sunday 13th November saw silence on 97.9MHz, with no sign of Emergency Radio, the first time they have missed a broadcast for a considerable time. Later on, Savage Yet Tender Radio were back on the air at 20:00. However a heavy hum was present on the signal right from the start. One feature of this transmission was advice on how to set up your own radio station. S.Y.T. Radio have now introduced a new package of jingles, which are said to be well produced.

Many thanks to Terry for more excellent reporting. Look out in next week's cuttings for a large article on Radio F.T.P.

MANCHESTER / CHESHIRE. The two seven day black community stations WBLS and Laser 103.5 appear to be having problems with continuity, of late. Certainly the powers are well down, and they cannot be received here in Blackpool, however both were reported locally as being on at times this past week. WBLS are understood to have moved back to their original 102.4MHz, from 104.4, whilst Laser are still on 103.55MHz. Super Fresh (98.3) has also been on the air, but operates on low power. Three new stations have also been monitored recently, Sapphire FM (96.4), Unity (104.75) and GT-105 (in stereo). Nothing more is known about these operations.

KENT / ESSEX. Three stations were noted in these areas last Sunday. Hot Wire FM (105.25) and Inner City Radio (105.6) broadcast from the Essex side of the Thames, whilst a new station (to us), Underground Surrealistic Transmissions (105.33) was giving out an address of : U.S.T., P.O. Box 140, Ashford, Kent, but its approximate coverage area is not known.

LONDON. Postal services willing we will be back up to date with two reports from Sid in this issue. This page is being printed mid-week (the survey usually arrives here on Friday), so if the Post Office fails us, there will be one missing! Let us hope!

#### London Weekend Survey.

18th - 22nd November 1988.

The London Survey falls foul of an underhand attack. 'Oldies Hits FM' falls foul of The Phantom, but helps to refloat a London based Veronica. As Winter promises to get into full stride early, rock radio returns.

An attack by a mouth terrorist left me drugged and dazed for part of the weekend, which highlighted the fact that there are times when I could do with some back-up. If anyone is interested in acting as an occasional part time additional unpaid pair of ears for the London Survey, please contact me through the Blackpool office.

It was confirmed this weekend that 'Oldies' Hits-FM is no more. It has deceased. It has.... Oh, you know the rest. Driven from the airwaves, not by the machinations of the London Lubianka, but by their fellow partisans in the movement for free radio. Fed up with not being able to finish a session without 'The Phantom TX Nicker of Old London Town' turning up on the rooftops of S London, Hits have turned off their last tx, which will be a source for mourning for all. But, never fear, this will not be the end of oldies hit radio. A nucleus of dedicated revivalists have gathered around veteran presenter Gary Stevens (ex-Hits), to re-launch Veronica FM (101.95 - and no connection with any other current group of that name) as a Sunday Golden Groover. They came on air this Sunday with a lengthy test, from their new E London base, with a signal that covered most of London. The new tx site was very carefully chosen, in the increasingly popular East End, to give maximum security, and coverage. To begin with, Veronica will only be on the air from 4 to 10pm each Sunday, putting out a mix of music from the fifties to the seventies, of rock and roll to reggae. For jingle freaks, the music is broken up with a lot of inserts. Some old Pams, some of the original Veronica cuts, and a few custom built. Veronica first appeared as a low power hobby outlet between 1980 and 1982. They closed when ILR Essex Radio opened up on 96.3 in that year. Security has been considerably improved, and the hope is that no more tx's will disappear without the culprits being caught. (And, if you've ever caught the culprits, you'll know how painful that can be!). The hope is to expand the service in the near future to, at least a mid-day starting point. Further time extensions will be considered "when the weather improves", and as and when more jocks join their ranks. And this is where talented London readers with a yearning to take to the airwaves can be of help. Gary would like to hear from anyone in the London area, who has an interest in the music of the past, to contact him on 01 443 1191, to discuss the possibilities of putting together a show for Veronica. He is waiting for your call now.

Sunday proved a big day for E London and pop/rockers radio in particular. As not only were Veronica paving the way for the much missed sound of 'Golden Groover' radio, bu Sunday also saw the return of heavy rock to the FM band. Rock-FM (94.25) made the long awaited and welcome return to airwaves when the 'Magnificent Seven" turned on the full power for the first time since late September, although the rocking ravers are believed to conducted a number of tests. N London poppers MMR (105.85) were reported as

having a full day on Sunday. Now, all it needs is news of Raiders 98 to get back, for pop/rock weekend radio to start looking and sounding better.

Friendly commercial free Wallington micro-poppers South London Radio (103.2) have been testing a transmitter with dead carriers at various times over the last few weeks. Programming, however, may not start for at least another month, but keen local fans should keep checking the slot for action in the meantime. Interestingly, the bust when it came at the beginning of October was not carried out only by the DoTI Men, but was a bi-lateral operation with the Post Office. It was the P.O. who wrongly suspected them of illegally mis-using Telecom equipment, and initiated the bust. Until that time, they had hoped that the low power used, which gave only local coverage, and the masking effect from the powerful Harlesden black music Super Fresh FM (103.3) alongside, would give them a low priority on the Waterloo Wanderers list. And so it proved to be, as they remained untroubled for the best part of six months, and it was only the P.O. adding one and one together and getting eleven which was their downfall. As SLR use a live on-air phone line, the studio site was not a difficult place to trace, and it was there on the afternoon of October 25th that they lost a complete set up. Contrary to reports at other locations, the whole affair took place in a civilised atmosphere. The case has yet to come to court, and, as the systems and equipment used were not either illegally obtained or mis-used, it is hoped that the outcome will result in the return of at least some of the confiscated equipment. SLR supremo, Pete Fields, has ploughed a considerable amount of money into this project, with the hope of keeping complete control of programming, and staying commercial free. But the use of advertising may have to be explored, if they are to continue on a regular basis.

SE London Sunday short-waver Wonderful Radio Free London (9970, 7245, 6300) are now working to a four hour tape loop. Programming, apart from the previously mentioned Roger Ross DX spot, now includes requests, as well as a look at the US charts, and a weekly rundown of the U.K. album charts. They are usually on for a full 24 hours, and controller Andy Walker says that although QSL requests have slowed down, they are still getting mail coming in from across the world.

Robot Top Forty tape loopers Hits FM (98.4), have enhanced their signal this week, and their advertising is noticeably increasing. New ads include a spot for a dating agency which has been cheekily juxtaposed with an ad for a book on how to chat up girls. On other stations, along with the usual ads for discos, records and clubs, the last few weeks has seen a growing number of ads for, of all things, estate agencies. It doesn't seem to be in one area either, as ads have been heard for agencies in various parts of town. The one man ad industry of Mark Damon has also been heard on a growing number of ads for cab companies recently.

An interesting sidelight to busts came to light this week, when it was learnt that a bust at Joy Radio (97.9) a few weeks back, was attended by nearly fifty police officers. The overwhelming official presence was not there to crush whatever resistance might be put up by the guerilla equipped DJ's, as only about five of the police were on duty. It turns out that the rest were there as observers, as they had never seen a radio station bust before. There were no reports of starry eyed cadets wandering around with autograph books clutched eagerly in their hands, but it does put some of the reports of heavy police presence at busts in a different light.

SOBA have settled in on 102.5 to a full 7 day / 24 hour schedule, and Pioneer who were previously sited there, have now returned. Pioneer have taken over that highly contentious spot up around 105.4, where many stations have tried to make a living.

Generally considered a soft target at the London Lubianka, the ethnics fared well in the bust free atmosphere this weekend. LGR (88.45), GRL (96.1) and GCR (104.45) all seemed to have completed the week with a full programme. The only Asian heard recently, has been down on 88.6. As it is shoved up tight between LGR (88.45) and a powerful new E Londoner Sunrise Radio (88.7), it has so far remained un-named. It is not believed to be BCCR, who were on this slot a month or two back, but it is possibly a relocated SINA Radio out of Southall, or, maybe a totally new outfit. London Arab (89.7) are now putting out a consistant distortion free signal, and also, surprisingly because of the slot they

are in, appear to be relatively bust free.

A total of 30 stations were locked into, with only four being received in stereo. Also heard this weekend were... Euro-Jam (89.5)... RJR (90.0)... Rock to Rock (90.3)... Passion Radio (90.6)... WLIB (90.9)... Sky (91.7)... Studio (92.7)... Harp (93.0)... Super Star (93.1)... Starpoint (93.25-stereo)... KISS (94.0-stereo)... CCR (94.3)... City (94.6)... Energy (94.4)... SIR (96.9)... TJR (97.9)... Big Time (102.2)... WNK (102.9)... Peoples (103.7-stereo)... JBC (104.3-stereo)... Tropical (105.1). Reported as being on air, but not actually logged were LWR (92.1)... Joy (97.7) and Faze 1 (98.1).

#### London Weekend Survey : 25th-29th November 1988.

"A new micro for Finsbury Park..... The DoTI men lie low - the quiet before the storm?.... Veronica has Time for police problems.

Where are they now? 'The Men Who Climb Tall Buildings and Take Things Away' seemm to have vanished from the streets of London. Is this one more move in the game of cat and mouse designed to induce insipient paranoia in the world of Privateer Radio? Nail biting station managers sit in their offices in the nether regions of the capital, counting the receipts and wondering if they have invested too much in spare TX capacity. The answer will inevitably be no, as history (or at least the last two years) has shown that the four weeks running up to Christmas are usually very busy ones for both the regulators and the regulated. No doubt the former efficiency of some stations will re-assert itself and, as the DoTI men clamber down the stairs with their booty, stations engineers will be already shooting up the lifts with replacements tucked under their arms. Whilst officialdom prepares for the coming onslaught with extra tune-ups to their cars (and twenty extra press-ups a day!), careful plans are being laid by the Special Eventeers for what promises to be a bonanza Christmas.

So, it has been a quiet week on the home front, and even LWR (92.05) managed to return and stay on the air for the weekend. A near full rosta of 7/24 ops. maintained a virtual non-stop service, and it was only the weekenders who remained affected. SOBA - The Sound of the Big Apple, which took over the 102.50 slot from Pioneer a week or two back didn't show and Pioneer were also missed from their new 104.50 slot. Croydon weekenders, Energy FM and popsters, Middlesex Music Radio weren't heard. Still missing are soul weekenders, Solar 93, who, as rumour has it, are contemplating a link-up with the much divorced and nomadic CD-93. With the present cluster of stations around the 93 slot, the new unit will probably have to look for a new home. A low power R-FM (94.30) were thought to have been caught in the mush alongside Brixton's powerful Classic C.R. (94.20), but had gone when checked on later from a better position.

13 weeks on and still not back to the sensitive digital device, has meant minor, but time consuming, complications in identifications at certain increasingly crowded points on the band. Up around the 98 sector, it is easy to hear the LEB humming along in the background of Faze 1 (98.10), but New Cross' Joy R. (97.70) and Willesden's Traffic Jam Radio (97.90) sometimes overlap and block out one another. As both programme very similarly and are not particularly forthcoming as to announcing who they are at regular intervals, it is only possible to say that both were on over the weekend. The same applies around the 93 sector, where the now very powerful Super Star (93.10) stands out. In places, Star masks Harp (92.90) which is sometimes confused with the now 7 day Studio FM (92.70). Weekenders Starpoint (93.20 st.) stand out as being in stereo. Hopefully, the next week will see the return to full band and digital monitoring, which will lead to more accurate loggings.

It is now possible to confirm that east London's BCCR (88.70) are back on air, with their curious mix of Asian and reggae programming. When monitored, they have been heard mainly in Bengali. BCCR have either got a good salesman working for them or they are reaching their audience very well, as their advertising load is quite heavy. Some of their ads., whilst attempting to be different, have taken on an almost surreal air. At times, they adopt the question and answer style of local cinemas, with sometimes unintentionally hilarious results. One particular ad. for an east end Indian restaurant takes the form of a playlet performed with all the self conscious wooden ability of Ronald Reagan and the stilted delivery of Noel Coward. Anyhow, 5 Brownie points for attempting to be different. Also with

a sense of humour is someone at London Arab (89.70) who has several times dug out a real 'mouldy oldie' by a mid forties crooner singing a track called 'Take me back to old Cairo'.

In the course of becoming 'The King of the Privateer Voice Overs', the dark brown voice of veteran Canadian actor Bill Mitchell has been called on to say some pretty banal things. But even Bill must have baulked and blanched at a recent script from north London urban stereo rocker People's FM (103.70 st.) which had the burnt tones of Bill intoning "When God created the Universe, the next thing he did was to create Bad, Bad, People's FM!" Ugh! That makes my teeth itch - number 2.

Studio FM (92.70), the successor to Studio 1, have just celebrated their first birthday under that name and have also recently moved into their 7 day operation. Previously a soul weekender only, a ceratin amount of reggae has been noted creeping in of late. Not to be outdone by Studio, both east London's WLIB (90.90) and Brixton's powerhouse Passion Radio (90.70) are planning celebrations to coincide with upcoming anniversaries. WLIB's are taking the form of a Miss WLIB 89 contest, which should be a joy for all the potential voteurs. And listening to WLIB should keep an ear out for the entertaining LaVelle Campbell on the early show, for an enjoyable hour or two. Passion are taking a more traditional approach with a birthday party on 16th December.

Sunday Golden Groovers, Veronica 102 (102.00), are suffering from twin sources of interference at the moment. A crystal clear signal in the east end and over much of south east London is badly marred in the rest of the town by splashover from the very loud Harlesden based Big Time Radio (102.20). It doesn't help that the Kent police are on the adjacent frequency and when that is on it blanks out everything. Despite these problems, Veronica had a full and trouble-free day.

SMR (102.70 st.) are a new micro powered reggae station now coming out of the Finsbury Park / Haringay area. Aiming at the local district, they still manage to get into the west end, despite the powerful Sussex based ILR, Radio Mercury. Meanwhile, on the other side of town, some wierd sounds have been coming out of Brixton's Classic C.R. (94.20) in the early hours of the morning. What sounded like an open circuit transistor clicking away, was heard on not one, but several nights over the weekend. In itself it wouldn't be too important, but the effect was heard up and down the band and made stations from City Radio (94.60) down to Harp (92.90) virtually impossible to with any enjoyment.

Also heard were:- LGR (88.45), GRL (96.10), GCR (104.45), Sunrise (88.70), Euro-Jam (89.50), RJR (90.00), RTR (90.30), Sky (91.70), Kiss (94.00), SIR (96.90), Hits-FM (98.40), WNK (102.90), Fresh FM (103.35), JBC (104.30 st.) and Tropical (105.10). A total of 35 stations were heard with 5 being in stereo at one time or another."

Our continued thanks to Sid for his untiring devotion to his radio and typewriter. It is a pity that the repairer of his digital radio has not got as much enthusiasm for his job - after 13 weeks Sid should at least be offered a new set.

NOTTINGHAM. Heatwave Community Radio (105.05) have been doing well the past three weeks, with programming noted 24 hours a day, and the signal getting far and wide, including here in Blackpool (with a fair strength last weekend). The station staff are currently waiting to go on a trip to see fellow Fresh FM deejays in action in London. Monday (28th November) saw the first of some Christmas reggae records being aired on the run up to the festive season. However the station was thwarted the following morning (Tuesday, 29th), when they suffered a massive DTI raid during which everything was taken, including the studio and transmitter. This occurred at around 10:00. HCR were off the air for just two days, and returned at 18:30 on Thursday evening (1st December). The timing of the raid is especially difficult for the station, as not only is it just three weeks since the last bust, but there is another court case against HCR on Monday 5th December, to answer allegations of broadcasting during the summer months. If our roving reporter, Ken, can manage to attend, we hope to have a review of the case in a future issue.

YORKSHIRE, HUMBERSIDE & DERBYSHIRE. Rapid Radio are determined to keep themselves on the air, and despite only lasting 24 hours on their last return a week ago, a

powerful signal was monitored once more on 98.15 on Friday 25th November. First heard with tests at 16:00, full programming was in evidence by Rapid by 18:00 that day. Audio quality was quite poor to begin with (audio being only on the 'side' of the signal at times), but this was soon rectified, and the station has operated all week without any breaks. We are unsure of what is happening at **Music City Radio** (90.3) at the present time, as some presenters have been heard calling it MCR/ABC over the past week. Perhaps the two stations have amalgamated? However, during the week, one of the staff was heard mentioning on the air that ABC FM would return to the air in a couple of weeks. We wait to see if this is the case. Whatever happens, MCR itself are putting out a superb signal when they are on. **Peoples FM** continued through the week, although a few technical problems were noted. Their frequency tends to vary between 104.6 and 104.7MHz (different tx's?).

Across in Bradford, **Paradise City Radio** (104.9-stereo), who have operated 24 hours all week, had a live broadcast appealing for donations for the Jamaican Hurricane relief Fund over the weekend of 25th-27th November. Listeners were invited to telephone in pledges of money, with their names and addresses being taken on a separate number. We understand that just under £4000 was raised by the listeners of PCR. Cheques were to be made payable to Oxfam. On Friday night, the appeal was also relayed on 105.5MHz until 04:30 on Saturday morning, which gave the station an enormous coverage area. **Radio Veronica** (105.5) were on the air from shortly after 19:00 on Sunday evening (27th) and programmed through until late. The station was not noted during the week. Further to our mention last time, it was stated that **NLV Radio** would be back in the new year with a high power transmitter. **Telstar Radio** (105.45) appeared at 18:00 on Sunday evening, but only managed to get an hour of good coverage before **Radio Veronica** came on the air on an adjacent frequency. Telstar was again noted with tests on Wednesday night, between 19:00-19:45. (Perhaps they were waiting for Veronica to come on the air?)

Further east, **W.L.N.G.** were heard with another test transmission on 104.95MHz, on Tuesday evening (29th). Although the signal was strong, the audio was reported as not being the best. The station was asking for reception reports.

In South Yorkshire a new station was monitored on Sunday afternoon (27th) on 104.9MHz. Initially, announcements were heard stating 'these are tests but keep tuned'. Full programmes commenced at 21:00 that evening from **Dearne Valley Radio**, with deejays Steve Nesmith and Tony Brooks. The signal was powerful and stereo audio reported as superb. Programming went on until around 23:45. The station was heard again just after midnight on Tuesday morning, between 00:30 and 01:30. **Radio Britannia** (98.2) was on last Friday (25th) between 19:00 and 21:00. Due to Rapid FM now getting out well on about the same channel, Kenny Crescendo may well alter frequency slightly to 97.8 for the next broadcast. **Rebel Radio** (105.5) made a 'live' broadcast on Saturday 26th, with Scooter Jones hosting between 13:00 and 15:00 in the afternoon. Rebel appeared for its regular Monday evening transmission at 2:00 on 28th November. However after about forty minutes the transmitter kept cutting out, and by 21:00 it had gone off altogether. Finally, an unidentified, very powerful signal was noted on Wednesday evening (30th) on 104.85MHz.

**NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.** Saturday 19th November saw the return of 'privateer radio' to the city. The station called **S.T.S.** was first noted on 94.6MHz around 8pm that evening. Unfortunately the station was suffering from a dreadful mains hum on the audio, which came and went, at times threatening to overpower the music. Musical content was a mixture of soul and jazz, and the programmes appeared to be live, judging by comments heard about the weather. The station did not appear on Sunday (20th), but was heard once again the following Saturday (26th) in the afternoon. "Okay J" was on the air giving 'special requests' out to what seemed like everyone in town. A female voice was heard to say that they had been working hard all day to get the station on the air. The mains hum was noticeably quieter during this broadcast. No contact address or telephone number was given out. Bill Mitchell station idents. were being aired, stating a frequency of 94MHz. **S.T.S.** was again on the air on Sunday evening (27th November). It is not thought that **S.B.S.** has any connection with **NBC** which

was on the air during the summer months.

**STAFFORDSHIRE.** Two stations were received in this area on Sunday 27th November. The regular **Centre Sound** (97.7-mono) was noted with presenter Simon Templar at 16:30, and a **Radio Veronica** (105.1-mono) with Ian Glover, at 16:45. Both stations were said to have strong signals and good audio quality.

**MERSEYSIDE.** The recovery by medium wave station in this area, following the raids of several weeks ago, now seems to be picking up. **North Coast Radio** (1350kHz) after commencing broadcasts on Friday lunchtime (25th), programmed more or less throughout the weekend, as well as all day Monday (28th). A carrier was noted on the channel on Tuesday, but had gone by Wednesday. During the hours of darkness a hum is apparent on the frequency, similar to that experienced when **N.C.R.** first began on this channel last year. A little tweaking should get them bang on, as happened last time. Andy Davis was noted on the station, and an FM outlet on 104.8MHz was announced to be commencing soon. The strong signal last weekend could be received over a large area, including Leeds. We were expecting them on the air again on Friday (2nd December), but at time of writing (that afternoon), there is nothing on 1350kHz. Also re-appearing last Sunday (27th) was **Storeton Community** on 1026kHz. There was still no sign of either **Radio Merseywaves** or **Radio Atlantis**, although a carrier was reported heard on 1242kHz, which could herald the return of **Radio Merseywaves**. On the FM band, things have continued to be quiet, with just the regular broadcasts from **Veronica 104** (104.75) being heard by us. We have received no correspondence mentioning anything else.

#### SHORTWAVE STATIONS.

Log for Sunday 27th November 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 12:46gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 10:30gmt.  
6231kHz...RAINBOW RADIO INT., at 10:36gmt.  
6231kHz...CRUISIN' SOLID GOLD RADIO, at 11:00gmt.  
6231kHz...W.L.R., at 12:10gmt.  
6240kHz...UNID., at 11:12gmt.  
6265kHz...RADIO BRIGITTE, at 10:35gmt.  
6265kHz...UNID.(Electra?), at 12:05gmt.  
6275kHz...FRS HOLLAND, at 11:00gmt.  
6280kHz...4IFR, at 10:26gmt.  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 12:55gmt.  
6290kHz...RADIO ORION, at 12:45gmt.  
6293kHz...ROMEO GOLF ONE (Gloria?-QSO), at 13:25gmt.  
6295kHz...RADIO KRISTEL INT., at 12:49gmt.  
6304kHz...BRITAIN RADIO INT., at 12:32gmt.  
6310kHz...UNID., at 12:12gmt.  
6312kHz...RADIO 48, at 10:22gmt.  
6312kHz...RADIO GLORIA INT., at 13:26gmt.  
6317kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO(QSO), at 13:22gmt.  
6318kHz...RADIO MARABU, at 09:12gmt.  
6318kHz...CRUISIN' SOLID GOLD RADIO, at 12:34gmt.  
6318kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO(QSO), at 13:21gmt.  
6815kHz...RADIO ORION, at 08:52gmt.  
6820kHz...RADIO PANDORA INT., at 08:53gmt.  
6820kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:08gmt.  
7316kHz...I.R.R.S., at 08:54gmt.  
7316kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 09:00gmt.

\* \* \* \* \*

Conditions on the shortwave bands were much better this week than of late, although signals from the continent appeared to suffer, resulting in virtually nothing being heard on the 41 metre band. Due to visiting friends, our own logs were late in the morning, and were made in the Leeds area with the help of Dave. Thanks also to Doug (Luton), David (Norwich), Podney (Cornwall), Stuart (Staffordshire), David (Bury St. Edmunds) and Neal (Midlands) for their information this week.

The unidentified station on 6240kHz. was thought to be **Radio Cavendish**, as this station was heard on 6238kHz. by Doug, although we are unsure as to the time he monitored.

**<FRS GOES DX>** reports on offshore & sw free radio\* station features\* radio topics\* frsh background info\* **UP-TO-DATE & INFORMATIVE\*MONTHLY** 20 pages free radio info in english  
→sample copy: 3inc's/70P/1u.s. dollar/  
3x75ct or 3x80p stamp ←

# The WEEKLY REPORT

## ANORAKS

### The First with the News in Print

No. 240....10th December 1988.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

**COST:** The price of this weekly news-sheet (and cuttings) posted, is as follows... U.K. - First Class, 40p... U.K. - Second Class, 35p... E.E.C. (inc. Eire), 40p... European (non - E.E.C., but posted at full rate), 45p... Rest of the world (Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

**PAYMENT:** Any method of payment at all will be acceptable. We do take Access, Visa and Girobank transfers (Acc. No. 12 141 6909), stamps (14p or 19p ones in the U.K., 28p ones in Eire), IRC's, foreign currency (notes only), cash, cheques, bank drafts, postal orders (Irish too!), the latter all made payable to Anoraks U.K. Please check exchange rate when sending foreign money, and don't forget to add 10 or 20%!

**ADVERTISEMENTS:** In Weekly Report, the cost is £25 (full page), £13 (a half) or £7 (a quarter). Mega-mail-out sessions (to non - subscribers) will be advised in WR.

**INFO - LINE:** A three minute message gives you the up-to-date news on the free radio scene which has occurred since the previous 'Weekly Report' was printed. Currently a limited service is available from 19:00 until 07:00 daily, on Bradford (0274) 480590. This will soon be extended to a full 24 hour operation as soon as Telecom fits new lines.

**DATA PROTECTION:** The act of 1984 says we must tell you that names and addresses are stored on computer. We can remove them if you wish, but it will delay replies.

**NEW MERCHANDISE:** At long last, but at least in time for Christmas, we offer "The Communicate '88 Package". Following the successful convention last September 24th, in Blackpool, it was agreed between the organisers, that a package be put together for the benefit of the people who did not attend. The package comprises of the following... an eight page A4 glossy picture booklet featuring many of the well known names attending, 2 x C.90 cassette tapes with three hours of interviews and general banter of the day (beginning with the promotions recorded by John Lewis, and aired on many free radio stations), four specially produced bars of Blackpool rock with the words 'Communicate '88' running through them, two admission badges (one red, one blue), the original glossy promotional material and booking forms, one C.88 carrier bag and two C.88 Able labels, in other words everything that was produced for, and since, the event. The price is £8, but for the people who bought an admission badge initially for £10, the price is reduced to just £5.00. We apologise for the delay with this package, but at least it is now on sale... Re-live the excitement of the day by getting the Communicate '88 package now!..... You still have time to order (and receive!) a **Medium Wave Loop / Frame Aerial** (and listening to Caroline on 558kHz. all apart from extreme South East England will need one at the present time!) before Christmas, but do so without delay, as we cannot speak for the postal service. The price is £35.00..... We still have a number of L.P.'s remaining on our list of deejay and station theme tunes, and this list has now been supplemented with a list of singles too. Basically the singles were left after the last sale early in the year, but nevertheless one or two additions have been made. Please feel free to request such a list when writing in, or telephone (0253) 882017 for further details.

**NEW ARRIVALS.** There seems plenty in the way of new reading material this week, but with Christmas around the corner, it is not unexpected as each publication gets its last issue out before the predictable postal delays. **Freewave**, issue 171 arrived early week and the neat A5, 24 page booklet is packed with radio news centered on the Netherlands. Details of this all Dutch text publication from Hans Knot, Postbus 102, 9700 AC Groningen, Holland..... Arriving the same day, from the same country and even looking identical (yellow cover, A5, 24 pages), was **FRS Goes DX**, issue 77.

Now containing a lot of special features in addition to the SW and offshore columns of the past, the magazine (all in English, incidentally) makes very interesting reading indeed. Details from FRS Goes DX, c/o FRS Holland, Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands..... **Play-DX**, issue 527 has six x A4 sides of long distance logs and international news, most of it in the English language. Details here from Dario Monferini, via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy..... still with publications from the continent, **CLCG Magazin**, issue 137 arrived and contains much short wave, offshore and local (German) radio news. Quite a lot of German text, however. Details from CLCG Magazin, Postfach 54 01 01, D - 4100 Duisburg 11, West Germany.

**TAPE OFFER.** It's back into the archives this week. With the end almost in sight for the bigger Irish free radio stations, we start a look at some of the more successful operations from years gone by. We start with the short lived but highly successful **Magic 103**. This station began as an offshoot from Dublin's Radio Nova, and operated for several months during 1985, initially on FM only, but then expanding to 1521kHz medium wave before being closed down later that year. The format was unique to Dublin stations, in that it was more news and current affairs orientated, with mainly light and specialist music programmes. Even the news bulletins were aided by the use of paid for 'official' press lines. Tape SP-26 takes us to Wednesday 31st July 1985, and an early evening show with Sybil Fennel. Sybil who is now part of the Radio Nova Satellite Link organisation in Camberley, Surrey, originally read the news on Radio Nova, and was for a time at L.B.C. in London. This is one of the few programmes she actually hosted. We move on a week for Tape SP-27, to Monday 22nd July 1985 and take a listen to a **Magic 103** breakfast show with Peter Madison and Bob Gallico. As many will remember, Peter has been with numerous Irish stations over the last decade, and Bob, now with Treble T R Radio, was newsreader on Radio Nova for many years, as well as being one half of the famous duo (with Declan Meehan) on one of the most remembered series of breakfast shows on Nova. Plenty of banter on this one. Both above tapes are 90 minutes long, in stereo, and cost just £2.00 each.

**WANTED.** 'WMR Goes DX' tapes, especially one from 18th September 1988, also Steve Conway interview on WFRL, plus any recent Nigel Harris on Caroline 558. Contact Steve Ball, 2 Badger Grove, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. ST3 7RY.

**HELP!** Stolen Radio! It's a standard C110E 144 - 148MHz. amateur radio, hand-held, with the postcode just beneath the speaker grill (PE11 4HN). The serial number is 36E 020124. There is a reward for its safe return... Tel: (0775) 840445 if anyone can help.

**RADIO STATION NEWS : IRELAND.**

Only 21 days now remain for free radio in Ireland.... the countdown to the end! But will it all be silent? Will they all shut down? What will happen? It seems to be anyone's guess at this stage. Initially, it appeared that the lot would go and all we (or they, really) would be left with RTE Radios 1 and 2 and the temporary Millennium Radio, at least for a week or two. But that 'week or two' soon became a month or two, and speaking to someone in the know this week, even a year (or two? or even ever!). In other words, at this moment in time, nothing will be there to replace those who leave the airwaves. So, will the bands be empty? Radio Dublin have categorically stated that they will continue until replacement stations are on the air, even if it means prison for the owner, Eamon Cooke. He has stated many times in the past that he will continue even if it means broadcasting from a tree! So, the spotlight,

once again, will be firmly fixed on Radio Dublin, as it was in the '70's with the savage raids, in the late '70's with the inter-station rivalry and in 1983 at the time of the great Nova and Sunshine raids (It was Radio Dublin who rallied everyone around and got all the deejays on the air from the stations and organised marches). If they do continue, will they do so on AM, FM and SW? We shall soon know!

Another source told us that their Dublin station would close on 31st December and wait for a licence. The staff would be laid off, of course, but how long can they wait with absolutely no money coming in at all. And when, if ever, they do return, will it be the same? The staff are already seeking alternative employment.

In the border areas, we understand some operators may try border jumping. A transmitter in a caravan or at least on wheels, along with a generator could sit on one side or the other of the border (whichever was 'convenient'). The problems would come when both sets of authorities got together and appeared simultaneously (this seems highly unlikely!). Sales offices would have to be in the north, as it would still be legal to advertise (although illegal to operate the transmitter) from there.

The relative safety of short wave may appeal to many hobby stations and we may well see a spate of such operations flourish. In fact it is quite likely we shall see pirate radio continuing in the country, but on an incredibly smaller scale, not unlike the U.K. operation. The first observation will be to note how quick the authorities act and how sharp their teeth are, and we must look to Radio Dublin, as they are certain to be the prime target. Keep watching this space, time is fast running out.

Co. DUBLIN. Further to our remarks about Radio Dublin having a second FM transmitter active, we understand from Westside Radio that this transmitter can be heard on 104.8MHz. locally. This is in addition to 105.2MHz., we understand. With poor FM conditions predominant this week, we have had no success with either at this QTH (although the station was received briefly on 105.3, two weeks ago). The station has been logged during daylight hours on 1188kHz. as we listened out for interesting comments, but all we heard was heavy promotion for the annual Christmas Toy Appeal and requests for additional sales staff!! Sunday afternoon (4th), saw the station put out a lengthy history of Radio Dublin. Due to bad conditions etc., we were unable to hear this, and would be interested to hear from anyone who has a good quality recording of the full show and would like to trade for other free radio recordings.

Both Sunshine and Super Q seem to be plodding along to the great switch off day, with normal programmes noted at all times. Q appear to be continuing with outside broadcasts, with Henry Owen heard recently coming from the Virgin Megastore window.

We did notice that on tuning to 103.5MHz. mid week, that Gold FM had changed back to identifying as Liberty Radio or Liberty 104.

Co. MONAGHAN. There seems little of note to report here, but as expected, 1413kHz. failed to come alive during the first part of the week, with programmes from Kiss FM in Monaghan, although 103.7MHz. was very much the opposite. It was thought that lack of time and finance, considering the time of year, would have prevented this transmitter having a replacement modulation transformer fitted. However on Thursday, on a tune down the band, 1413kHz was discovered alive and kicking once more. The transmitter has been on since. It was also interesting that the 1170kHz outlet was just about audible the same day, the first time here with the low power tx. News reader, Con McConville was noted hosting the breakfast show all week, standing in for a holidaying Nick Richards. Car stickers are currently being advertised for sale, using a P.O. Box in Armagh.

Co. LOUTH. A couple of issues ago we mentioned that due to BBC Radio 1 installing a new relay to Belfast on 96.0MHz, Radio Rainbow (Carrickcarnon) were possibly moving up the band to 104.4MHz. A change in frequency is now understood to have taken place, but to 98.5MHz instead. This unfortunately means that the signal from CLAS 98.5 FM, which could previously be heard well, is now blocked near the border areas and around Dundalk.

Co. ROSCOMMON. After mentioning last week that Roscommon Community Radio could be heard quite clearly

here in Blackpool, and that the station was airing a lengthy promotion asking listeners to write to their T.D's about the impending silence on 1521kHz. on January 1st 1989, the station was silenced earlier than expected. According to the 'Anorak Show' last Sunday (4th) on Radio West, high winds which battered Ireland last week, and England at the weekend caused the collapse of R.C.R.'s mast. Whether or not the station is financially able to pay for the mast's re-erection so close to 'switch off day' is not known, but we will be tuning to this channel daily to check progress.

Co. WESTMEATH. After a period without. Radio West now have their Optimod unit working once more on 702kHz. This gave a much clearer signal last weekend than it has in the past. Station owner Sean Coyne mentioned that there was still some fine tuning to do on it, in order to get the sound perfect. However, the signal strength still seemed to be down compared to what it was in the summer.

THE OFFSHORE STATIONS. Our reliable historian, Stuart, tells us that it was still four years on Friday 16th December (at 11:00), since Radio Monique first began official programmes. (Sunday 16th December 1984 was the exact date.)

Caroline 558. The station currently has plenty of staff on board (hence the very short programmes at night), and this, along with a midnight closedown on weekdays, has lead to a rather complex line-up. Several new voices joined recently, including Tony Kirk, Kevin Nelson (ex-Hits 954 in Limerick), Ian Palmer (Australasian accent), and Steve Richards. Dave Fisher, who was heard for just one hour several weeks ago, was noted again at midnight on 28th November, but hasn't been heard since! With a 24 hour schedule again in operation at the weekend, the 'new blood' has been taking over at these times, giving the regulars Ian Mack, Judy Murphy, Nigel Harris and Dave Asher a rest. Steve Conway has read all the news except at midnight during the week, and at the weekends, when it has been shared between Judy, Dave and Ian. Instead of news, Steve has hosted a programme on a Saturday and Sunday. There have been few off-air periods recently due to technical problems, but one occurred on Tuesday 6th December. Judy Murphy had just said 'bye bye, see you tomorrow at 9am', when, by co-incidence the transmitters cut out on all frequencies at 12:53. They resumed at 13:12, with a late news and Steve Conway mentioning aerial problems. The line-up has been steady this week, with programmes now starting one hour earlier... 04:00 Steve Richards... 05:00 Ian Mack... 09:00 Judy Murphy... 13:00 Dave Asher... 16:00 Nigel Harris... 19:00 Neil Gates... 21:00 Tony Kirk... 22:00 Ian Palmer... 23:00 Kevin Nelson... 00:00 Closedown.

New promos for Lotto 6/49 have been noted this week. They feature the voices of Judy Murphy and Neil Gates. Judy muses that if she won a million she would buy a new radio ship with a three hundred foot mast!

819kHz. Unlike early November, Radio Caroline is no longer relayed on 819kHz during the evening. Instead, the transmitter is usually switched off at 22:00 after a period of continuous music - that is unless someone forgets to, which is exactly what happened on Tuesday 6th December. At 22:00, as well as the tx being left on, the studio feed was also still routed through, and at least two readers heard snatches of Caroline Rock Show promo for 27th December, along with Dave Asher attempting to get a tape machine to work. He couldn't, which explained the rather strong comments which unintentionally went out over the air.

The Voice of Peace. 'Tender day' seems to Monday at the present time, and it was on 21st November that Brendan Mee arrived back on board. This allowed John MacDonald another spell of shore leave. On the same trip, Martin Murphy left the station after 10 months. Tuesday 22nd, saw a section of a John F. Kennedy speech (presumably in commemoration of his assassination), being broadcast prior to the start of the classical programme at 19:30. On the following afternoon, Wednesday 23rd, there was no phone-in with Able, but live reports on the football match between Israel and Rumania was broadcast. Line-up for that week was... 00:00 Brendan Mee... 03:00 Gary Cooke... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 Mike Davis... 13:00 Brendan Mee... 15:00 Abie Nathan... 17:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 Mike Davis... 22:00 Gary Cooke.

The new offshore station is still on test broadcast. There are apparently only two deejays on board, and they just play tapes.

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## LAND-BASED STATIONS.

### LONDON WEEKEND SURVEY : 2nd - 7th December 1988.

The DoTI Men poke their noses above ground.... Fresh don't go west and there's a new crystal in the set up.... Christmas comes to Privateer Land....

New soul weekenders, Crystal Radio (or is it Kristal?) turned up in the very dodgy 92.30 slot for the weekend. It isn't known if this is the same Crystal that has resided in various slots from 107.30 down over the last few months out of north London. This Crystal is very big and loud and more likely to be coming out of Crystal Palace than Alexander Palace. Soul driven they were 24 hours over the weekend. A dead carrier was noted in the early hours of Monday, this was presumably because the last on air jock had forgotten to switch the power off. Being next to the re-invigorated LWR (currently 92.05) is never a very healthy spot to be in, as LWR have a habit of aggressively changing slots when competition gets too close. As it is, they swing about between 92.00 and 92.40, often as a result of replacement transmitters not always being fully aligned. At other times, there does seem to be a policy of moving up on stations who have decided to set up house in the 92.30 - ish area, and swamping them. This has happened several times in the last two years, the last occasion being when Southside attempted to set up a shop back in June. It remains to see what actions will occur. In the meantime, LWR have assumed an air of normality for the first time in many a week. It was good to hear veteran reggae driver, Fuzzy Dee, back in fine form. He always manages to pull a show together with a wide variety of sounds which appeals to everyone. It was during the Fuzzy Dee show on Saturday evening that LWR went stereo for the first time since their troubles started back in May. This in itself shows the degree of stability that they have re-attained.

The stereo beacon came up in several other unexpected places over the weekend. S.E. London's Joy Radio (97.85) went stereo for a short time on Saturday, before they disappeared late on Sunday. The biggest surprise of all was when 94.25 went stereo for Rock - FM on Sunday. R - FM have had stereo encoders for some time, but seem to only use them for short mid-week tests and the pre-Sunday set-up periods. With the lack of mainstream rock based music radio, a quality service from The Magnificent Seven is much to be desired. Apart from Hits - FM (98.40), R-FM were the only pop / rock station noted this week, with Golden Groovers, Veronica 102 not making an appearance. Stereo tests were being carried out on Monday evening on 102.50 from an unknown source. This could be anything from the rumoured re-launch of TKO to the subsequent occupiers of the slot, Pioneer or the Sound of the Big Apple, both of whom have not been heard from for a week or two. On the other hand, it was back to mono for both Starpoint (93.25) and People's (103.70).

On the missing list this week were Harp, Faze 1, TJR, and SIR. A low powered signal heard on Monday evening on 96.90 was attributed to the return of Strong Island. All those named were believed to be victims of the Waterloo Wanderers. Their low level campaign may have been behind the loss of BCCR, Euro-Jam, London Arab, Studio, Star and GRL, all of whom went out at one time or another over the weekend. BCCR and Studio were the only ones not to make it back by Monday. So, as forecast last week, the preliminary skirmishes of the Christmas '88 campaign have begun. So far, the injuries have been light, but the level of activity is expected to increase dramatically over the remaining period of Love, Peace and Good Will to all Men, but not, apparently, to Privateers, who only want to entertain us and make a few bob.

Christmas is coming to Privateer Land slowly but surely. London Wide Radio (92.05) have resurrected some old seasonal jingles from the graveyard, which is surprising as they refer to London Weekend Radio. On the other hand, whilst passing through the verdant grasslands of Wandsworth and Battersea on Saturday evening, the dulcet tones of the Johnny Mathis Christmas Album could be heard over and over again on 102.90 until they were drowned out by north London's WNK (102.90). JBC (104.30) were doing a similar thing with the old Jim Reeves album on Sunday and Monday mornings, but they do seem to have had a fair bit of the smaltzier type of Christmas music on as well. JBC seem to be well down in output levels. Could the impossible have happened? Have they had a visit from the Soul Destroyers?

Soul survivors, Starpoint (93.25) were heard plugging the station together on Friday night. But, instead of the high quality stereo signal that has come to be expected of them, there was a decidedly low-fi mono signal, which gave rise to several sproggs across the band. From being almost specialists at the classier ends of soul and jazz, recent changes have seen them broaden their programme base quite considerably. In a promo extolling their virtues for progressive advertisers, Starpoint say they now cover the whole range of music from gospel to a little rock. Even reggae has crept in, late at night, without the style of presentation expected from Starpoint. Never ones to hide their lights under a bushel, they have been putting out a number of knocking comments about the cliches that abound on many of the black stations. Starpoint have also jumped on the commemorative bandwagon with the announcement of a Starpoint T - shirt to celebrate three years of broadcasting.

Just around the corner from JBC in Craven Park are the similarly non-stop Super Fresh - FM (103.35) who have introduced an overnight Asian service. The powerful 200 watt transmitter of Fresh, will give a far wider service than that achieved by the generally smaller Asian services. The only other current Asian service is that on B.C.C.R. (88.6) which only gets to SE and E London, and they went out Saturday. With the exception of GRL (96.1), the other two Greek services LGR (88.45) and GCR (104.45) had a clear week. Possibly because JBC seem to be down in power, GCR has been sounding a lot louder this week. GCR and the jokers at London Arab (89.7) are currently the only ethnic services on air 24 hours a day. Back at Fresh, and a possible source of confusion was noted this week, with the similarity of phone numbers for Fresh and Peoples. Both are on the 961 exchange, while People's are 9426. This week's embarrassing 'Bill Mitchell' drop-in for People's is just too embarrassing to write.

'Things That Make My Teeth Itch' No. 3 "You're listening to the big one", and then not telling me which 'Big One' I'm supposed to be listening to!

Also heard :- Sunrise (88.7), RJR (90.0), Rock-to-Rock (90.3), Passion (90.6), WLIB (90.95), Sky (91.7), Star (93.1), KISS (94.0-stereo), CCR (94.25), City (94.6), Time (102.2), SMR (102.7) and Tropical (105.1). A total of 35 stations were noted with just six transmitters in stereo, for part of the time.

RENFREWSHIRE / GLASGOW. Activity seems to be picking up in this area, after a very quiet period. A new station called Radio KLT is now broadcasting every Saturday afternoon on 105.5MHz. On Saturday 3rd December, the station was on the air from 13:00 until 18:00, and reception reports were being requested on a telephone number. Signal strength is reported to be very good. Also occasionally on the air at the moment is the Paisley Free Broadcasting Service on 99.7MHz, but they have no set schedule.

Two former operations are due back on the air soon. Radio Unicorn are starting up again on 26th December, on 103.25MHz., broadcasting mainly to Dumbarton, Alexandria and Renton. This station formerly operated each Monday night from around 21:30 onwards. Also, Riverside Community Radio were due to return on 4th December, but due to gale force winds and heavy rain, it was abandoned. The test tapes are ready, and should be put out within the next week.

SHROPSHIRE / STAFFORDSHIRE. Soul City Radio (103.8) continue to be heard each Sunday, and were last noted on 27th November with all day broadcasts until closedown at 19:38 in the early evening. Radio 'WR' are still working on their transmitter in order to change frequency for their boxing day broadcast. Sunshine Radio has not been heard for a while, but like Radio WR, is expected to be on the air at some point over the Christmas period.

MERSEYSIDE. After having silence on 1350kHz. throughout the day on Friday (2nd), North Coast Radio sprang to life and were noted with a very strong signal from Friday night, and throughout the weekend. The station was also on the air on Monday, although programmes did not appear to commence until lunchtime. Unlike last week, the carrier was not left on after the end of programming, and 1350kHz remained silent from Tuesday onwards. No FM transmissions were noted in parallel with the AM outlet. (Possibilities of this were mentioned in previous broadcasts). Also on the medium wave, Storeton Community Radio operated a full day for the second Sunday in succession, this was in

addition to Saturday also, this week. Frequency as always was 1026kHz, with an extremely strong signal. Radio Merseywaves again failed to appear, however carriers were again noted on 1242kHz at various times over the weekend, signifying an attempt to get this successful station back on the air. A relay of 'white noise' and some FM station was noted on the frequency on Sunday morning, but both this and the carrier had disappeared by lunchtime. Let us hope that Radio Merseywaves will be back in time for Christmas, in order to put out another of their regular festive season extended broadcasts. Elsewhere last weekend, Veronica 104 were on the air with a strong signal, and were heard well here in Blackpool during early Sunday afternoon. With FM conditions down, we did not have any trouble from BBC Radio 1 on 104.8 or BBC Radio Gloucester on 104.7, and thus Veronica on 104.75MHz was clearly audible. The audio quality was noted as excellent, with the exception on a hum each time the microphone was opened.

At the time of writing (Friday morning), there was no sign of any carriers on any of the usual medium wave channels used by Merseyside operators.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. Saturday 3rd December saw S.T.S. on the air from mid-afternoon, on 94.65MHz. 'Dr. Xerox' presented a show from 4-6pm heavily promoting bands playing in local clubs during the coming week. This included numerous mentions of his own night at Manhattans Night Club in the city, on December 12th. Mention was also made of an S.T.S. Christmas Party, although no times, places or dates were given out. The 'Shady Lady' took over the microphone from 18:00 until 20:00 playing some 'extremely crucial' reggae. During her show, she mentioned that the station had just managed to set up a correspondence address. Surprise, surprise, this turns out to be : P.O. Box 1XN, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1XN. You'll probably remember that this is the same address as NBC used to use. Whether this is coincidence or not, remains to be seen, but the station itself exhibits none of the characteristics of the former holder of the address at all. Following 'Shady Lady', the 'Funk Surgeon' took over with a rather pleasant selection of jazz music. 22:00-23:00 saw 'D.J. T' at the mike, holding the first ever competition (write in) on S.T.S. The station switched off sometime in the early hours of Sunday morning. On Sunday itself, the station was first logged at 2pm, although programmes were well underway by this time. The station certainly seems to have quite long hours for such a new one with no advertising. There doesn't appear to be any shortage of presenters either, as different deejays were noted on Sunday as opposed to Saturday, including an Armenian whose name was not noted. The signal strength is quite good in the west end of town, and covers many parts of the city also quite well.

THE MIDLANDS. A new station was heard on Thursday 1st December calling itself **Raise FM** on 104.3MHz. This one was playing 'acid music', and was reported to be rather distorted and unprofessional. Possibly the same station as the above was heard the following night at 19:50, on 104.2MHz with distorted microphone, and thought to be identifying as **Riot FM**.

**Fresh FM** (95.05) were heard as normal last weekend, and mentioned that on Friday 9th December they would be opening a market stall on the top floor of the 'Mega-Active' department store (131-133 Corporation St., Birmingham). Fresh FM merchandise and tickets for events related to Fresh FM will be sold. A telephone number has been announced, and the station is expected to begin a magazine type programme during the next few weeks, although the exact content of this is not yet known.

**KISS-FM** returned to the air again on 29th November, and the station programmed every day until Monday 5th December. They were still on the air at 10:00 that morning, but had vanished by 17:15 and haven't been heard since. Following other previous disappearances, perhaps their theme tune should be 'I Don't Like Mondays!'. One report indicates that the DTI are not responsible for KISS going off the air so many times.

On 3rd December **Powerhouse Radio 105** (105.2) mentioned that they had received a telephone call from **Metro Radio** who were apparently operating on 105MHz in the Birmingham area (although they were not actually reported by any correspondents). A few interference problems were caused, and Metro Radio have agreed to move. The following night

(4th) Powerhouse stated that they are now a 24 hour operation. Elsewhere, the two other 24 hour operators **Radio P.C.R.L.** (103.55) and **Enterprise FM** (91.95) operated as normal, and seemingly trouble free. Local **Black Country Radio** (106.0) has been monitored each evening as has **Skyline Radio** (94.3), the latter which appears to broadcast from Wolverhampton. No Asian stations have been reported this week, but Skyline Radio was heard broadcasting an Asian language programme at 23:00 on Tuesday 6th December.

The A.O.R. tests continue on 106.3MHz at various times. This week, a relay of an old Bedside Radio programme has been aired. Sounds Alternative tapes were heard last week.

Alone on the medium wave is **U.K. Radio**, now calling itself **U.K. 212**. They were heard for the now regular Sunday daytime programming on 1413kHz, on 4th December.

THE SOUTH COAST. **Faze FM** (Brighton) has been on the air two Sundays recently. On 20th November they were noted from 16:00 until midnight with a much improved signal. The following week, although advertised as beginning at mid-day, they were not heard. This is believed to be due to them being disturbed during setting up of equipment. They were back on December 4th with a very good signal.

# FAZE

# FM RADIO

## [105.5 MHz]

12-1	James Dean's Brake Pedal
1-2	Mick Costello's Hot Soul Club
2-3	Norman Cook's Magical Remix Show
3-4	Mick Burtenshaw's Soul Meltdown
4-5	Tony Munson (ex Solar Radio)
5-6	Beats per Minute with Dave Wesson
6-7	Grits 'n' Gravy - The Jazz Rooms of Faze FM
7-8	DJ Shemski's Funky Madness
8-9	Simon's Good Groove - rare, fusion and boogie
9-11	Free I Sound - Cultural Roots Reggae     J J     S     S     J J
11-1	J Wentworth Crazy Hour - Indie and guitar pop

# SUNDAY

Apparently on the weekend of 26th/27th November **Energy 105** (Newhaven) were reported as being raided by the police whilst setting up in a warehouse. The operators are believed to have escaped. Also the previous Sunday (20th), **Radio Atlantis** were reported as being raided, although this has not been confirmed.

NOTTINGHAM. Following the return to the air of **Heatwave Community Radio** (105.0) last Thursday (1st), the station had a few technical problems until Sunday, with the stereo encoder cutting in and out causing fluctuations at the receiver end between stereo and mono. Sunday (6th) saw the appearance of the first Christmas jingles. These have been done specially for the station, and are apparently very well put together. Monday dawned, and all the H.C.R. crew plodded down to the courthouse for the case relating to offences back in the summer, only to arrive to find that the DTI had asked for an adjournment. The new date for

the case is Monday 19th December. The reason for the delay could be one of two things. First, the DTI could be trying to include other raids carried out since the summer, at the same time. Or, the recent defeat of the DTI prosecution at the case involving Radio P.C.R.L. could mean a last minute change in tactics by their solicitors. Either way, we are almost sure to have a first hand account of the outcome of this case, involving one of the biggest stations outside London. The delay in the case obviously upset several of the H.C.R. staff, as the rest of the week many comments were heard referring to the DTI, which is not normally the case. On her show on Tuesday (the first for a while), the Lioness was heard to say "hold tight you DTI people, Nottingham is not having a lonely Christmas on 105". The following day, 'The Boogie Man' said "the DTI do not like music 24 hours a day, but they are going to get it on 105 whatever happens". Perhaps these comments caused a DTI reaction, as on Thursday morning (8th) H.C.R. was not on the air (they were still on at 03:00), and their telephone number was unobtainable. Watch this space next week, for another thrilling episode!

#### SHORTWAVE STATIONS.

Log for Saturday 3rd December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 11:27gmt.  
 6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, with 'WMR Goes DX,  
     from 10:00 until 11:00gmt.  
 6233kHz...RADIO ORION, at 12:26gmt.  
 6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 10:56gmt.  
 9970kHz...W.F.R.L., at 12:33gmt.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

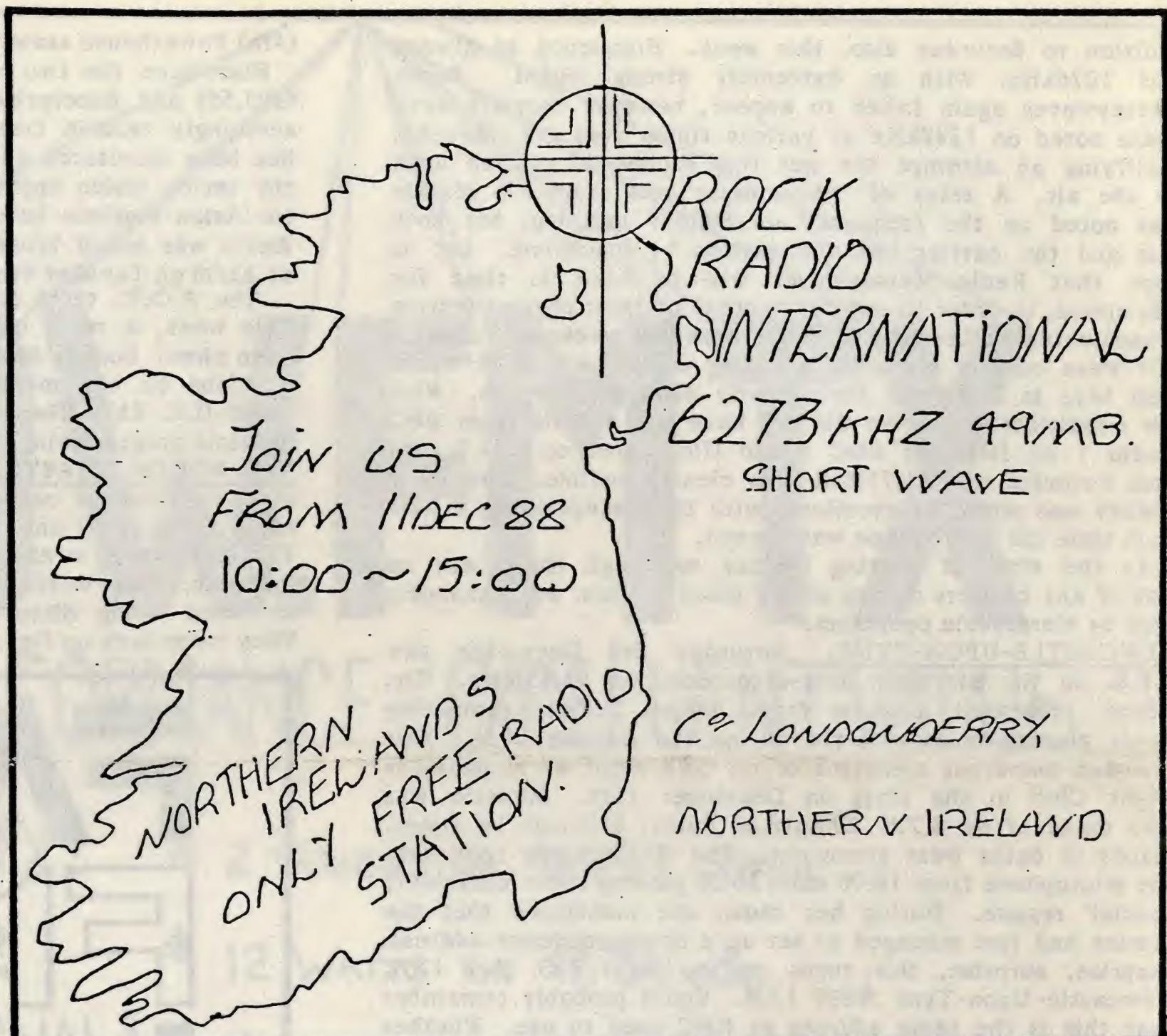
Log for Sunday 4th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 10:21gmt.  
 6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 10:25gmt.  
 6224kHz...UNID., at 09:40gmt.  
 6231kHz...CRUSIN SOLID GOLD RADIO, at 11:15gmt.  
 6231kHz...W.L.R., at 12:10gmt.  
 6240kHz...PREMIER RADIO INT., at 10:22gmt.  
 6260kHz...KLA RADIO, at 13:07gmt.  
 6270kHz...UNID., at 10:09gmt.  
 6270kHz...THE VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS, at 14:14gmt.  
 6275kHz...UNID., at 12:58gmt.  
 6275kHz...DELTA TANGO, at 13:21gmt.(QSO).  
 6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:33gmt.  
 6300kHz...RADIO ORION, at 12:17gmt.  
 6304kHz...JOLLY ROGER RADIO, at 11:02gmt.  
 6318kHz...STAR INTERNATIONAL, at 10:45gmt.  
 6318kHz...RADIO STELLA INT., at 11:38gmt.  
 6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 11:03gmt.  
 6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 10:35gmt.  
 7316kHz...INT. RADIO RELAY SERVICE, at 08:52gmt.  
 7316kHz...RADIO SUESAN, at 10:39gmt.  
 7375kHz...UNID., at 08:53gmt.  
 7375kHz...RADIO DJ, at 10:33gmt.  
 7385kHz...W.F.R.L., at 10:42gmt.  
 7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 10:37gmt.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Conditions today were variable, with even the strongest stations such as 6231kHz. suffering deep fades. The 41 metre band fared a little better than last week, with several stations heard, although those from France were much weaker than in recent months. Our thanks for additional logs to Stuart Dobson (Staffs.), David Cracknell (Suffolk), Neal West (Radio East Coast Comm.), Alan Jeavons (Staffs.), Roy Patrick (Derby) and others.

A slight mystery surrounds the 6270kHz. area, with additionally, a 'Radio East Coast - Holland' reported at about 14:18gmt. Any ideas?

Prince Terry on 6280kHz relayed a tape about the history



of some of the early free radio stations in Eire, including a long piece from former shortwave operation, Radio Valleri. If anyone has a good quality recording of this (our reception was suffering from severe electrical interference at the time), we would like to hear from you, and will exchange for anything from our large collection of radio recordings. The programme went out from about 11:45-12:45gmt, and was very informative.

Much has been stated about the impending closure of Irish AM and FM stations on 31st December, however with Irish radio legislation looming on the horizon, it will be interesting to see how many of the shortwave operations will attempt to continue. With Ireland not having its own 'official /government operated' overseas shortwave service, these small Sunday operations are the 'Voice of Ireland' to many listeners abroad. Radio Dublin was back on the air on 6910kHz. this week. We hope that this service will continue daily and into the new year, as owner of Radio Dublin, 'Captain' Eamon Cooke, has vowed to continue broadcasting after the end of the year. (See this week's cuttings sheet.) One station which we hope will manage to continue is Westside Radio International. Station operator Prince Terry has kept this station on the air virtually every Sunday for at least the past ten years, and the loss of Westside would make a large void in the weekend listening of many shortwave enthusiasts. It is thought that the Scottish Free Radio Network on 6231kHz. and 6318kHz. will cease operations from Eire, and that a suitable alternative will be found so that the stations (W.L.R., Stella and Cruisin') can continue.

Christmas Broadcasts. Don't forget that Radio East Coast Commercial (6310kHz or 6815kHz) will have a telephone line open during the special Christmas Day broadcast. If you would like to contact Norman Nelson 'live and direct' on that day only, then the number to call is (04853) 2742. Remember that this number will only be in use for contacting Radio East Coast Commercial on this one day.

FRS Holland also have a special Xmas broadcast, but on 18th December, from 10:00 until 15:00. This will be the station's eighth Christmas special.

Our thanks as usual to all contributors, loggers, etc. We appreciate all your help and would appreciate even more from Ireland at this time of great changes, as we are unable to hear many of the sixty plus stations currently active and depend on correspondents keeping us informed.

# The WEEKLY REPORT

## ANORAKS

### The First with the News in Print

No. 241....17th December 1988.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

Please Note that there will be no issue of 'Weekly Report' on 31st December. Instead, No. 243 will be a bumper edition, covering the entire festive season, which of course will include reports of what happened in Ireland on legislation day. Next week, we will be posting No. 242 on Wednesday, in an attempt to get it through your postbox in time for Christmas.

**COST:** The price of this weekly news-sheet (and cuttings) posted, is as follows... U.K. - First Class, 40p... U.K. - Second Class, 35p... E.E.C. (inc. Eire), 40p... European (non - E.E.C., but posted at full rate), 45p... Rest of the world (Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

**PAYMENT:** Any method of payment at all will be acceptable. We do take Access, Visa and Girobank transfers (Acc. No. 12 141 6909), stamps (14p or 19p ones in the U.K., 28p ones in Eire), IRC's, foreign currency (notes only), cash, cheques, bank drafts, postal orders (Irish too!), the latter all made payable to Anoraks U.K. Please check exchange rate when sending foreign money, and don't forget to add 10 or 20%!

**ADVERTISEMENTS:** In Weekly Report, the cost is £25 (full page), £13 (a half) or £7 (a quarter). Mega-mail-out sessions (to non - subscribers) will be advised in WR.

**INFO - LINE:** In a three minute message, this gives you up-to-date news on the free radio scene which has occurred since the previous 'Weekly Report' was printed. Currently a limited service is available from 19:00 until 07:00 daily, on Bradford (0274) 480590. This will soon be extended to a full 24 hour operation as soon as Telecom fits new lines.

**DATA PROTECTION:** The act of 1984 says we must tell you that names and addresses are stored on computer. We can remove them if you wish, but it will delay replies.

**NEW MERCHANDISE.** Wavelength No. 25 arrived just in time for Christmas. In this 16 page edition are the regular pages of offshore information and shortwave/MW/FM reviews. Also included are two reviews of Communicate 88, and the next instalment of Steve West's travels in Ireland. Price is 90p including postage and packing. "The Communicate 88 Package" is now available for £5.00 to those who attended the function, and £8.00 for those who didn't. This includes two C-90 cassettes with the interviews (land-based and Irish radio are covered as well as offshore) and general happenings of the day. An 8 page, A4 photobook is also included along with the other promotional material produced for the event.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** Arriving late last week, Now Radio, issue 86 contained 24 pages of news and views of just radio, both legal and pirate. Details from P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0NW.... the festive season edition of Contact, the monthly bulletin of the World DX Club, Vol. 25 No. 12 with its mass of radio info will make interesting reading over the holiday period when one has more time to check for themselves what is what on the radio bands. Membership details from Arthur Ward, 17 Motspur Drive, Northampton.... Radiotex issue 139 has four pages of shortwave logs covering 26th November until 4th December, as well as news and details of some future broadcasts. Subscription details from Radiotex, c/o Duempter Strasse 6, D-4100 Duisberg 12, West Germany.... Medium Wave News Dec 88 (published by the Medium Wave Circle) has 20 pages of news, loggings and other useful information solely about DX-ing on this band. For a sample copy write to Bill Shaw, 1 Alt Avenue, Liverpool L31 7BJ.... Finally this time, the entire radio spectrum is covered in Communication (the magazine of the British DX Club). The Christmas edition has 28 pages of loggings and news, with a special feature on radio in Denmark and a visit to Radio Australia. For membership details send an s.a.e.

to Colin Wright, BDXC, 54 Birkhall Road, Catford, London SE6 1TE.

**RADIO STATION NEWS....IRELAND:** The sad news this week was the outcome of a vote in the Dail which finally sealed the fate for the current 'unlicensed' stations in the country. See Co. Louth for more details. This decision will have a devastating affect on the AM broadcast band from 1st January, and here in Blackpool, will sadly make half the dial empty and barren. In Dublin, the FM band will be most affected, where once the listener had a choice of many different services and formats, only the monopoly of RTE will be available.

**Co. LOUTH.** The following is a transcript from the main news at 13:15 on Boyneside Radio, from 15th December..."In Dublin a Dail vote last night, sealed the fate of Boyneside Radio and some 70 other local radio stations around the country. Mike Ahern reports.."By a majority of 70 votes to 55 TD's defeated a Fine Gail motion which sought to allow the present stations to continue broadcasting until the new permanent stations were ready to start. This could have been done through a minor amendment to the present legislation, however the Minister for Communication, Mr. Burke refused to accept this option, and in effect guillotined the jobs of 1000 or so people presently working in local radio stations, which now must close on December 31st. However the Minister said that he would amend the legislation to allow the continuation of the so called 'pirate television deflector systems' for a limited period. Today a Boyneside Radio spokesperson confirmed that last night's decision, left Boyneside Radio with no option but to close down on December 31st, with the consequent loss of 35 local jobs."

**Co. DUBLIN.** An attempt was made to monitor Treble T.R. Radio from the Harold's Cross area of the city. Whilst the signal was detectable on 936kHz., it proved easier to log the German station underneath, even at peak groundwave time, which just proves how bad medium wave ground conditions are at this, the worst period. The station was heard playing promotions for their close down party. As expected plenty of adverts were noted, many voiced by old favourite, Bob Gallico, who also handled the news bulletins. One wonders where the country music artists will get their records played, during 1989 with TTTR and the other stations gone. Will the government pay out any compensation for loss of earnings due to a consequent drop in record sales?

Radio Dublin (1188kHz / 105MHz / 6910kHz) are the station to watch after 31st December, as they have vowed to continue.

**CO. ROSCOMMON.** Roscommon Community Radio were noted back on the air by us this week, on 1521kHz. The signal skips well in the late afternoon. Also heard here this week due to no operations on 1035kHz from Dublin, was Roscommon Radio. Don Allen was noted on most of the adverts.

**Co. LIMERICK.** A station called W.P.C.R. has been heard in the evenings recently in Limerick City. Broadcasting on 104.0MHz, it appears to be coming from the Prospect area in the city. Signal is said to be strong, and in stereo, with the music format being mostly 'house music'. The station seems to be on the air from 10pm onwards most evenings. Apparently there have been numerous community radio meetings in the city, and a lot of interest is being shown. Kilkenny Community Radio is being used as an example of a successful community station.

**LAND-BASED STATIONS : U.K.**

**MERSEYSIDE.** Last weekend North Coast Radio (1350), and Storeton Community Radio (1026kHz) were noted with good signals on AM, as were Veronica 104 (104.75) on FM. N.C.R. were not heard on Monday, but are expected on this

weekend. Radio Merseywaves (1242) had a carrier on Thursday and Friday, and programmes are expected to commence again on 17th December. An extended Xmas schedule is expected. The signal was very good.

**YORKSHIRE, HUMBERSIDE & DERBYSHIRE.** In West Yorkshire, P.C.R. (104.9), M.C.R./ABC (90.3), Peoples FM (104.7) and Rapid FM (98.1) have all been heard this week, although Rapid have been missing quite a lot. Thunder Radio (104.5) were noted last Sunday night, and tests from a new station in Bradford, Harmony FM were carried out on Wednesday (14th). Full broadcasts commence on 17th.

New station Vulcan Radio (106.3) finally made it to the air on Sunday (11th), and were again heard on Wednesday evening. Rebel Radio were noted on 11th and 12th, on a slightly changed channel of 105.3MHz, and with a better signal. Radio Britannia (97.8) put in the regular two hour broadcast on 9th, at 19:00.

**NOTTINGHAM.** H.C.R. (105.1) were not off the air last week, but just on low power. Full power resumed on Friday (9th) when they were received as far away as Scotland.

**THE SOUTH COAST.** The operators of Energy FM (Newhaven) wish to point out that the reported raid was only a suspected raid by the DTI, and the police were not involved.

#### London Weekend Survey : 10th-14th December 1988.

More names join the lengthening list of those chickening out before 31st December, in the slim chance of getting a licence (1 in 200?) - In the meantime, the DoTI Men continue in low key vein, and the ethnics get blitzed - A new Saturday pop/rocker venture gets underway, and Veronica sets sail for greater things.

Good news for me, as my digital set arrived back, and for the first time since September, I was able to establish with certainty, that a station was where it said it was. Oh! the joy of hitting a slot, and not to have to wait endless minutes (and sometimes longer) to be sure of an ID. Now I could get back to the job of listening in detail to stations after a few minutes tracking down who was on, and where. But then doom and despondency struck, as, with a puff of smoke that would have done a Pantomime Genie proud, the unit disappeared back to the depths of the repair shop, and more probing. Oh well, back to the analogue, and nothing above 105.

The only ethnic to survive the weekend unscathed, was London Arab (89.7). LGR (88.45) and SE London's BCCR (88.6) went out over the weekend, but GRL (96.1) and GCR (104.45) weren't even on the starting blocks for Friday. LGR are one of those who intend to stop broadcasting on Dec. 31st, in the hope of getting a licence for a legal set-up, when they are considered in the New Year. Coming out of the closet and climbing on the bandwagon towards legality, is the most piratical of all privateers, LWR! Now that is one application form which should make interesting reading - especially the bit about transmitter standards. The Camden Town based KISS-FM (94.0-stereo) organisation have announced a 7/24 hour operation up until New Year's Eve, and then intend to cease transmission pending their application. They are appealing long and loud for letters of support, to be used to prove the need for a service such as theirs to go in with their licence application, but the broadening of their programmes has led to a distinct lowering of standards. New presenters have been drafted in to fill the hours, but they are yet to be considered up to the KISS standard of yore. KISS are currently running with the slogan 'Radical Radio', which you have to admit is pretty original. What could be more original at this moment, than having a 24 hour soul station? Also, not coming up to standard these days are Starpoint FM (93.2), not instereo at the moment and the whole feel of the station seems to have changed over the last few weeks. Nothing one can place a finger on, but more a gut reaction.

Still they come. While some court legitimacy, by turning off their tx's, and employ PR companies, there are still those who are willing to risk all, for the chance of being on the radio. This appears to be true of new S London based, pop orientated, London Town FM (105.35) whose debut came on Saturday 10th December, with a daytime only set up. Cleverly set up to give the illusion of live shows, LT are actually cassette based. The illusion was shattered when, whoever was supposed to be monitoring the tape machine, failed to change the tape in time at the end of a show, and the tape mechanism reversed again into the beginning of the same show. That happened at least twice. A mix up

in lines of communication also meant that at least one jock was trailing the wrong follow on jock. Nevertheless, they were pretty tightly timed, and tapes did begin, more or less, at the top of the hour. The tapes must have been made on the day in question, as 4 to 6 rock jockette, Liz Gallagher, was giving out weather forecasts. Liz was also giving out gig guide news. Music was broad based pop and rock, and efforts had been made to give added interest with trivia competitions and such. Early afternoon driver, Peter Flynn, even had a cleverly contrived phone-in competition, which he promises will be a weekly event. Now, that really does take some organising for a tape show. The S London group have a good signal, wacking out, certainly well down into Sussex, and presumably over much, if not all of London, indicating an extremely good tx site. The early finish is puzzling, but could indicate an open air site, with not much cover to hide the car batteries, and a desire not to be sitting in a freezing car all day Saturday, just to change tapes every two hours. Still, a pretty auspicious beginning. The name London Town has been used before, in May and June of 1987, when the ill fated fore runner to the currently troubled Raiders FM used the title. The suspicion lurks that LT-FM are possibly a reformed splinter group from Raiders. If they ever return my phone calls, maybe we shall find out.

Veronica 102 (101.9) also had their tape mix-ups, when boss man Gary Stevens, in his haste to get to the tx site on time, picked up the tape which had been due to go out the previous week instead of the current one. In that tape, Gary had used the voices of the punters from the request/dedication answerphone line to introduce their own records. It all ended happily as the idea proved very popular with those who heard their voices on the air. In fact, the all round response has been good for the first Veronica broadcasts, and it was only the bad weather of Sunday 4th December, which kept them off the air. An unexpected flashover from a wet aerial to an undetected earth source, blew things away within a matter of minutes of the transmission beginning. The damage was sufficiently bad for the day the have to be abandoned, and a retreat to the nearest pub was called for, to make future plans. Undeterred, out intrepid veterans have rebuilt and re-grouped, and are now fully staffed. A slight move of half a slot to 101.9, has now taken them out of the armpit of Harlesden Powerhouse Time Radio (102.15), and they can now be heard clear down the East side of London, from Herts. down through Essex and into Kent and Surrey. Next week's quadrupling of power, will push them up into the big league and should see them London wide. Meanwhile, their fellow E Londoners at Rock FM (94.25) were out and about all day Sunday, and unfortunately only in mono. Down at Hits FM (98.4), the robot rockers hadn't been paying attention to the record levels when they put the current tape together, as a certain amount of high frequency crushing was in evidence. The level of advertising at Hits continues to rise and vary, indicating a healthy future for them.

The number of stations who are currently London wide, are not that many. Sunrise (88.7), RJR (90.0 and shortly expected back in stereo), Passion (90.6), WLIB (90.95), LWR (92.05-stereo), Hits FM (98.4), Time Radio (102.15), Fresh FM (103.35) and Star (93.1 and currently off-air) all come into this category, plus weekenders Rock-FM (94.25) and just returned E London soulsters Stage FM (98.1). All the rest have much more restricted areas of reception, including the once mighty KISS FM (94.0-stereo) and Starpoint. Others like City Radio (94.6), Classic CR (94.2-not on at the moment), Studio (92.65), WNK (102.9) and even JBC (104.25-stereo) can vary quite considerably.

Strange animals these privateer chappies. In the early hours of Tuesday morning, LWR were definately on air, but it sounded as though the studio gain had ben turned to the minimum, as the volume control on the radio had to be turned to a maximum to make anything out at all. While up band, Joy Radio (97.85) have found another way of exploiting the endless groove. Not for them the needle clicking away in the end groove, when the last jock has got tired of waiting for his replacement to show, and has gone home to bed, but the hi-tec repeat of the first note of a track, caused by switching on the CD auto cue. The resultant racket went on for the best part of the night.

Also heard were :- Euro-Jam (89.5-stereo), Rock-to-Rock (90.3), Sky (91.7), Crystal (92.3), Strong Island R (96.9), The Sound of the Big Apple (102.5), SMR (102.7), People's FM (103.7) and Tropical (105.1).

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Just room for me to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and A Peaceful New Year, and lots of good listening.

#### THE OFFSHORE STATIONS:

On Thursday 22nd December, it will be five years since the m.v. Communicator first arrived off the Essex coast, and incidentally, a member of this team just happened to be passing Mistley last weekend and noted that said vessel was still lying on a mud bank adjacent to a scrapyard, as it has been for some considerable time now. Still on the subject of the m.v. Communicator, according to a report in Now Radio, the case at Canterbury Crown Court going back to the days of Laser 558, has now been completed. Now Radio reports that Rob Eden was fined £250 for attempting to procure advertising for Laser. Nick Murray (£1000 + £1500 costs), his wife Linda (£500) and John Cole (£1500 + £1500 costs) were all found guilty under the 1967 Marine Etc. Broadcasting Offences Act. Nick and his wife were also fined for supplying records. Former deejay Robbie Day was also fined for supplying the ship (£1000 + £500 costs). No prison sentences were handed out, but if the fines have not been paid within four months, then short prison terms will be handed out. A further case against Philip Payne was dropped by the prosecution prior to the trial beginning. A further case of running a Laser roadshow will be heard at a later date. Thanks to Now Radio for the above information. It is interesting to note that there has been very little press coverage about this case at all.

The Voice of Peace. The first week in December was a busy one for the station. John MacDonald returned on Tuesday 29th November, and Kenny Page went on his shore leave. Two days later the ship was off the air and on its way to Ashdod to prepare for Winter. There she was re-fuelled, with food and water also being put on board. The station was back on the air at 14:00 that day, although the ship has now changed its anchoring position. Also that same day, Kenny was back on board after only two days leave. Mike Davis left the station for good on 2nd December along with Gary Cooke on 5th. From then, the Voice of Peace had a shortened days broadcasting, and is now off the air between 01:00 and 06:00. Because of early closedown, 'The Late Night Affair' is featured between 22:00-01:00. The last news of the day is just before closedown at 01:00. The line-up on 8th December was... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 Brendan Mee... 12:00 Kenny Page... 13:00 John MacDonald... 15:00 Abie Nathan... 17:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 Brendan Mee... 22:00 John MacDonald... 01:00 Closedown.

The new station 'Arutz Sheva' (= Channel Seven) is still broadcasting test transmissions on 918kHz.

Caroline 558. More changes took place in the line-up over the past weekend. Judy Murphy and Ian Palmer have now left, but have not been replaced by anyone else. However, there were plenty of presenters on board before this, so it is unlikely that anyone will have to do more than four hours per day. Saturday (10th) saw a return to the same line-up as the previous weekend, where all the evening jocks took over the shows, leaving the regular weekdayers having a break. Ian Palmer was hosting the breakfast show, which turned out to be his last on this stint. The rest of the day went as normal, with Steve Richards in the morning and Steve Conway in the afternoon. It was during Steve's show, that the records began to go slow and fast, with eventually the transmitter tripping out at 15:00. A quick flick to 819kHz also found Radio 819 off the air. Judging by the noises and signal readings on 558, attempts were made to get it back on immediately, but these failed. Continuous music was noted at 15:25, (819kHz did not return until 17:05) and Dave Asher read the weather forecast at 15:30. Steve Conway returned shortly after this to complete the show, although the station left the air several times, albeit briefly, over the following hours due to generator problems. The first sign of a staff change came that afternoon, when Judy Murphy did not read the news at 18:00. The non-appearance on Sunday morning at 05:00 of Ian Palmer (hosted by Kevin Nelson instead), also pointed towards this, and in fact neither Ian or Judy were to be heard for the rest of the week. A message on the air Tuesday morning (13th) wished Judy Murphy a good trip, so perhaps she is returning home to Canada for Christmas to tell stories about life on a floating radio station! Sunday afternoon saw Steve Conway on for another (almost) four hours, with comments on the previous days five generator failures. In fact, this is first time for many weeks, that the signals have been interrupted so much

by technical problems. Everything seems to have gone smoothly since then. With the departure of Ian and Judy, the weekday line-up has (up until 14th) altered to... 04:00 Kevin Nelson... 05:00 Ian Mack... 09:00 Nigel Harris... 13:00 Dave Asher... 16:00 Steve Richards... 19:00 Neil Gates... 21:00 Tony Kirk... 23:00 Kevin Nelson. Closedown is after the midnight news. The news jingle has been missing on occasions this week, which is believed to be due to a faulty cartridge. (It sounded muffled last weekend). Steve Conway has read all news broadcasts except 08:30 and midnight (Nigel Harris) and 18:30 (Steve Richards).

As well as the generator failure on Saturday, Radio 819 were off the air Tuesday morning (13th) for a few hours (558 was unaffected) for reasons unknown. Following the end of Viewpoint 819 the transmitter is now switched off almost immediately.

#### SHORT WAVE STATIONS:

Log for Sunday 11th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 10:20gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 10:22gmt.  
6225kHz...UNID.(Radio New Wave Int.?), at 09:14gmt.  
6230kHz...JOLLY ROGER RADIO, at 10:20gmt.  
**6231kHz...UNID.(Radio Rainbow Int.?), at 11:27gmt.**  
6231kHz...WLR, at 12:00gmt.  
6235kHz...UNID., at 09:24gmt.  
6240kHz...RADIO TOWER, at 09:56gmt.  
6260kHz...KLA RADIO, at 11:23gmt.  
6265kHz...UNID.(Radio Luce?), at 09:20gmt.  
6265kHz...UNID.(Radio DJ?), at 10:31gmt.  
6266kHz...UNID.(Freesound?), at 12:33gmt.  
6273kHz...ROCK RADIO INTERNATIONAL, at 10:25gmt.  
6273kHz...RADIO BUTTERCUP, at 11:42gmt.  
6280kHz...UNID., at 10:03gmt.  
6280kHz...RADIO PANDORA INT., at 11:37gmt.  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO, at 12:35gmt.  
6288kHz...ATLANTA RADIO, at 09:46gmt.  
6300kHz...W.F.R.L., at 11:29gmt.  
6304kHz...BRITAIN RADIO INT., at 11:20gmt.  
6312kHz...RADIO 48 INT., at 09:55gmt.  
6317kHz...RADIO STELLA INT., at 09:52gmt.  
6582kHz...UNID.(Radio Batida?), at 09:05gmt.  
6820kHz...RADIO PANDORA INT., at 08:53gmt.  
6820kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO, at 09:34gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 09:40gmt.  
7316kHz...RADIO SUESAN, at 09:43gmt.  
7316kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 10:00gmt.  
7374kHz...UNID., at 08:59gmt.  
7375kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 11:04gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 09:17gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO LIMIT INT., at 10:10gmt.  
7445kHz...UNID., at 09:10gmt.

\* \* \* \* \*

Conditions today seemed quite good with the strong stations noted very loud. The smaller operations however, were quite weak early in the morning, hence a lot of unidentifieds, but they too improved as the morning wore on. Logs in **BOLD** are from here in Blackpool, others were kindly received from Roy in Derby, Stuart in Staffs., Andy in Hull, David in Norwich and Neal in the Midlands.

'WMR Goes DX' on World Mission Radio was late on the air on Sunday, and not noted until after 10:15. Christmas records were played up until that time. Both Radio Fax and Radio Pandora have announced closure dates and will be finally ceasing transmissions during the Christmas period. No doubt Westside too, along with Rainbow and all the other Irish operations will soon be gone, leaving quite a large hole in the Sunday morning pirate SW bands.

Christmas Broadcasts. A final mention for some of the stations promising special output over the festive season. Radio East Coast Commercial will be on the air on Christmas Day (6310kHz or 6815kHz). Station operator Norman Nelson will be accessible to listeners live on the air on this day only, on (04853) 2742. Weekend Music Radio have a number of transmissions planned for the holiday, so check out all the regular frequencies (including 6317kHz and 15045kHz). Several transmitters may be in use, so also look out on the 41 metre band. On Boxing Day, Britain Radio International are also planning a special. Frequency here is 6304kHz. This weekend may also see some of the final broadcasts from the Irish Republic. Radios Fax and Rainbow are definitely closing. W.L.R. is thought to be planning a three hour special for 6231kHz sometime over the festive period.

# **The WEEKLY REPORT**

## **ANORAKS**

### ***The First with the News in Print***

**No. 242....21st December 1988.**

**P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.**

**Please Note** that there will be no issue of 'Weekly Report' on 31st December. Instead, No. 243 will be a bumper edition sent out on 7th January 1989, covering the entire festive season, which of course will include reports of what happened in Ireland on legislation day. May we take this opportunity in wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and of course, plenty of good listening over the coming two weeks. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed news, cuttings and other information for 'Weekly Report' throughout 1988, as without your help we could not have made this newsletter as comprehensive as it is now. We regret that we cannot thank you all individually, but you can rest assured that all material received is very much appreciated. Thank you also for your hundreds of Christmas cards and good wishes. They make it all worth while.

**COST:** The price of this weekly news-sheet (and cuttings) posted, is as follows... U.K. - First Class, 40p... U.K. - Second Class, 35p... E.E.C. (inc. Eire), 40p... European (non - E.E.C., but posted at full rate), 45p... Rest of the world (Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

**INFO - LINE:** In a three minute message, this gives you up-to-date news on the free radio scene which has occurred since the previous 'Weekly Report' was printed. Currently a limited service is available from 19:00 until 07:00 daily, on Bradford (0274) 480590. This will soon be extended to a full 24 hour operation as soon as Telecom fits new lines. Over the coming two weeks, the 'Info-Line' will be up-dated every two or three days to keep you in touch, especially with what days and times many of the Irish stations will be closing for the last time.

**RADIO STATION NEWS : IRELAND.** It was interesting to read that whilst the Minister for Communications could not give a reprieve for the 'pirates' until licenses were issued, he is going to give Millenium 88 FM (run by RTE) a two month extension in order to 'fill the void on the airwaves'. There seems to be double standards operating here, as it wouldn't take much extra work to delay implementing the law for the radio stations (they did it for tv repeaters), at the same time as extending the Millenium period.

**Co. Westmeath.** Radio West broadcast its last 'Anorak Show' on Sunday 18th December. Legislation was discussed at length, and several calls were taken, including one from Heady Eddie of Boyneside Radio. Both Sean and Eddie agreed that most stations would be closing down during the daytime of 31st December, as the New Year Celebrations would mean that the listenership up to midnight would be negligible. By closing in the afternoon, the maximum listenership, and hence effect will be made. Boyneside Radio will be closing down at 3pm on 31st December, and the final hour will feature some of the many disc jockeys and staff who have kept the station running over the past ten years. A special record has been produced by Sean for the big closedown date. The record is of country format, although at time of writing we are unsure as to the title etc. for obtaining copies. No doubt it will be plugged heavily in the coming ten days, and we can find out more information about it, as many listeners will obviously want a copy for prosterity. An interesting call came from Miles Johnston of Monaghan's KISS FM (who incidentally were last week announcing as 'Europe's most powerful FM station with 1,200,000 watts e.r.p. - obviously the number of yagis on the mast has been substantially increased). Miles stated that although the Minister for Communications had given a reprieve to the so called 'pirate tv transposers', he had not stated any particular frequency range, and this blew a big loophole in the forthcoming legislation. So it may be that KISS TV (without the vision!) may continue into the new year. This

## **Illegal Broadcasting**

From the end of this year, anyone involved in illegal broadcasting will be liable to prosecution under the Broadcasting and Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1988, which comes into effect on 31st December, 1988.

### **PENALTIES ARE SEVERE:—**

- FINES OF UP TO £1,000 AND/OR 3 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON SUMMARY CONVICTION.
- FINES GO UP TO £20,000 AND/OR 2 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT. EQUIPMENT WILL ALSO BE CONFISCATED.

So, if you are any of the following — beware:

- A person who operates or assists in the operation of an illegal broadcasting station
- A person who owns, controls or makes available vehicles, premises or land used for illegal broadcasting
- A person who supplies, installs, repairs, maintains or keeps equipment which could be used for illegal broadcasting
- A person who advertises on or invites others to advertise on an illegal broadcasting station
- A supplier of programme material of any kind for illegal broadcasting
- A participant in any way in an illegal broadcast e.g. as an announcer, presenter or contributor.

You will be committing an offence under the Act.

Provision of electricity and telecommunications services used in connection with illegal broadcasting may be prohibited. Anybody permitting the use of such services for these purposes may have these services prohibited also and will be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of £1,000.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

is yet another interesting twist, and only the first couple of weeks in 1989 will see whether any of these ideas for continuing will be viable.

**Co. Dublin.** In yet another twist in attempting to foil the closure on 31st December, the Radio Dublin transmitter (a 5kW professionally built rig) has apparently had a brick wall built around it, in an effort to stop the authorities seizing it. Pierre Doyle has announced he is not applying for a

licence, and Q-102 are now advertising a 'Q School of Broadcasting' for 1989. Latest from Radio Dublin is that they intend to continue on shortwave only, and will switch the FM off. There isn't actually a wall around the tx, but it is substantially re-inforced, and Eamonn is moving back into the premises before Christmas. A raid is not expected until 3rd January at the earliest, and Eamonn is to challenge the constitutionality of the law, in the courts, a case which could take up to 2 years.

#### OFF-SHORE RADIO STATIONS

First off, Per Lindholm in Sweden gave us the sad news this week, that Mr. Jack Kotschack died on December 9th in Cannes, France, aged 73. Jack was the founder of the Swedish offshore station Radio Nord in 1960. (The ship was later used by Radio Caroline until it sank in 1980.) We have a prepared piece by Per which will be printed in our 8 page issue on 7th January 1989.

**Radio Caroline.** As we wrote last week, Ian Mack left the ship and his position on the breakfast show has been taken by Nigel Harris (since Thursday 15th). No extra personnel came on board, and as a result, the programmes during the evening have now been lengthened. The station ran 24 hours over the weekend, with Mike Watts hosting programmes between 01:00 and 05:00 on Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings. Erwin van der Blieck was heard for 2 hours on Sunday afternoon, and according to Steve Conway, will also be on over Christmas due to popular demand. The new weekday line-up is... 04:00 Kevin Nelson... 05:00 Nigel Harris... 09:00 Neil Gates... 13:00 Dave Asher... 16:00 Steve Richards... 19:00 Tony Kirk... 22:00 Kevin Nelson... 00:00 News and closedown. Several insert/promos specially done for Caroline 558, have been heard played, by London Beat, UB-40, Four Tops and Nick Beggs. It's nice to hear the music industry getting involved with the station again. We understand that Chuck Cannon can now be heard on Capital Gold, and Judy Murphy on Radio Luxembourg (under a different name).

**Radio 819.** The Dutch service continues to operate from 04:00 until 18:00 daily, however on Saturday 17th December, following the end of Viewpoint 819 programmes, there was continuous music until 22:00, and then Radio 819 resumed. Although not heard here, it is thought that this was special celebration to mark 4 years since the start of Radio Monique from the Ross Revenge. The programming went through the night, and straight into normal shows at 04:00 on Sunday.

#### LAND-BASED STATIONS : U.K.

**Merseyside.** Medium wave was alive and kicking last weekend, with Storeton Community Radio (1026), Radio Merseywaves (1242) and North Coast Radio (1350) all putting out extremely strong signals. RMW appeared on Friday evening with tests, and full programmes were on by Saturday morning (17th). A schedule was only announced for Saturday and Sunday, but when we checked early on Sunday night there was nothing on 1242kHz. Perhaps they closed early, as a strong carrier was again in evidence on Wednesday 21st. S.C.R. were having a few modulation problems on Saturday morning, but these were soon cured, and the station was heard for the rest of the weekend, as well as on Monday afternoon (19th). Although not on until late, N.C.R. also programmed through Monday afternoon and evening. On FM, just Radio Veronica 104 were monitored, with the usual good signal on 104.75MHz.

**Yorkshire, Humberside and Derbyshire.** Bradford's Paradise City Radio (104.9-stereo) were visited by the DoTI Men on Tuesday 20th December, and had a substantial amount of equipment removed. They returned soon after, and were running on one deck for a time. The new station Harmony Radio (105.3-stereo) appeared with full 7 day programmes last Saturday, and have been operating since. They have a format which features a wide variety of music. In Leeds, Rapid FM have been missing for a while, but People's FM (104.7) and MCR/ABC (90.3) have both been heard daily, although People's went missing from Monday onwards.

Further south, another new station Crazy FM (106.0) were noted testing at 15:00 on Tuesday 20th, announcing as Vulcan Radio's sister station. Britannia Radio (98.2) programmed from 19:00-21:00 on Friday (playing some anorak material), and are expected to be on air several times over Christmas. Village Radio are not on until Christmas, when they will be on a lower channel of 104.85MHz. Rebel Radio (105.4) were noted as usual on Monday, and are not expected on over Xmas, although a special is planned for 22nd December. The Midlands / Nottingham. All stations are on as normal.

#### London Weekend Survey : 17th-18th December 1988.

The run up to Christmas continues - war cries on the DoTI front - getting mighty crowded in the 90MHz sector as another new station debuts, and guess what - it's soul, funk and reggae!

Coming up on 90.3, out of the increasingly popular East End is Supreme Radio. Very heavy on the reggae, and revival ska, it has created a few problems for those around the area. Rock-to-Rock has made a side step from 90.2 down to 90.1MHz, which is a better slot for them, but knocks out Tottenham's RJR (90.0) south of the Thames. While the newcomers keep on arriving, there are others who are adding their names to the growing list of those who are about to retire. WNK (103.0) is the latest to come out, and declare an interest in applying for a license. The next question must be, that with only a severely limited number of licences available, what will happen to those many operators who will not get a licence? Will we see them back on the air in the near future?

January 1st must also bring into question the ambiguous position of JBC (104.25-stereo), whose allegedly semi-official status has been an open secret for months. If JBC continues, will the DoTI Men start to visit that part of Harlesden more frequently, or will the apparent 'official blindness' continue? Just up the road in Craven Park, it has become increasingly apparent that Fresh FM (103.35), have also developed a charmed life, with a very low bust rate over the last eight months, as opposed to the record of near neighbours Big Time Radio (102.15).

Despite the surprisingly low level of activity from the London Lubianka, new stations keep cropping up. Can it be that the 'Soul Destroyers' have adopted a 'wait and see' stance, as the January 1st deadline approaches, or will they unleash a holocaust of busts in this week leading up to Christmas itself? It wouldn't be in their nature to allow stations to finish in style. One only has to remember what happened to Radio Jackie, when the DoTI Men ripped out aerials and transmitters in the final minutes of their closedown show, to know what they are capable of.

A number of contenders have announced tests up in the 99-102MHz slots, which on the face of it seems like potential sudden death. But information arrived this week that the police/fire transmissions on these channels are a pure sham. The public services moved to two metres some time back, and their transmitters have been left on the broadcast band for the nuisance value in deterring any potential privateer. They will finally be turned off, when the time arrives for the new local/national ILR services to take to the air. So it seems that if a station can find a relatively clear slot, they should have a clear run for a year or two.

As 'DJ Alleycat' at Starpoint Radio (93.25) insists on telling us, Starpoint is definitely one of the more listenable stations on the air at the moment, and at times could be almost classed as 'easy listening'. However, he reminds us so often of the cliches that other stations use, that he is in danger of becoming a cliche himself. That said, it is true that, most of the time, Starpoint is a pleasant station to listen to, with an eclectic mix of music from a little rock through soul to jazz. But the Starpoint jokers didn't help things along on Saturday, when they suddenly started dropping in old inserts for the long defunct J-FM. Maybe that is why they have started a magazine about the station called 'Egg' - maybe it is so that we may all get the yolk, or possibly they see themselves as poisoning the system.

There is a certain amount of confusion at the East London studios of popular Sunday rockers Rock FM (94.3) at lunchtime on Sunday, when some minutes were spent in sorting out who was actually doing what for the rest of the day. Having sorted that out, they continued well into the night after their normal midnight switch off.

The Veronica 102 (101.9) crew, had been joined by an old 'Hits' man in the shape of Mike Andrews, who joins the cassette crusaders to bolster their number. Veronica finished a little late, this Sunday, probably due to long tapes and slow changeovers. Now out of the shadow of the mighty Time Radio, Sunday saw a successful run of the new tx. Main man Gary Stevens indulged his fascination with 'Euro-rock', and also managed to rustle up a French listener on his tape machine. Gary doesn't keep his talents to the increasingly popular Veronica, but holds down the 9-11 slot on Friday morning, with a live 'oldies' show on East London's WL1B (90.95), where he also does other odd jobs, like sweeping up, making the tea, and most of the voice-overs, and all the jingles/inserts. This certainly means that WL1B has

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an identifiable sound, and it makes a change to hear voice-overs and drop-ins, other than the voice of the ubiquitous Mark Damon. Also trying for a more identifiable sound, has been **LWR** (92.05-stereo) who have been digging out old Christmas jingles as well as dropping in jingles of a more recent vintage.

Hopefully, the earlier printing date this week should mean that this reaches you before Christmas, so South Londoners should look out for a Christmas Day special from popular micro-poppers **South London Radio** (103.2). All over London, and possibly all over the world, Sunday, January 1st will see a 24 hour extravaganza from a one-off return by the people who brought you daily 'Golden Groover Radio' for a short period at the end of last year, and the beginning of this. **News Music Radio** and **Wonderful Free Radio London** are linking up for a day of nostalgia, with a planned multi-frequency output on a yet to be announced slot on AM, FM and at least four shortwave frequencies. Look out nationwide on 6300, 7245, 9970, and 12108kHz. Fellow 'golden groovers' **Veronica 102** are taking Christmas Day off, but are making up for it by going from mid-day to mid-night on the Tuesday following Christmas. **Starpoint** (93.25) have gone 7/24 over the holiday period, and **KISS FM** (94.0-stereo) are also on a 7/24 schedule but will be shutting from midnight on December 31st. AM sixties rocker **Swinging Radio England** have promised to be back for a number of Christmas specials, but no confirmation has yet been heard. Nothing has been heard either, about specials from **Rock FM**, but they usually manage to pull something out of the bag to amuse us.

Not heard this week were Greek Radio for London, Greek Community Radio, Bangla Caribbean Community Radio, Harp, Classic CR, Faze 1, MMR and Studio FM.

Also heard this week were **London Arab** (89.7), **London Greek Radio** (88.4), **Euro-Jam** (89.5), **Passion** (90.7), **Sky** (91.7), **Crystal** (92.3), **Star** (93.5), **City** (94.6), **Strong Island** (96.9), **Joy** (97.85-stereo), **Stage** (98.1), **Hits** (98.4), **Sound of the Big Apple** (102.5), **SMR** (102.7), **WNK** (103.00), **Fresh FM** (103.35), **Peoples** (103.7) and **Tropical** (105.1). A total of 37 stations were locked into on just Saturday and Sunday, with only four in stereo.

A final wish that the turkey be tender, and that the airwaves be sweet. Happy Christmas, and a wonderfully privateer New Year.

Many thanks to Sid not only for this last report for 1988, but for all the excellent surveys sent to us during 1988, and we hope that he can continue to do this in the coming year. The next survey will cover the two weekends of the festive season. Finally in London, Alan reports yet another station in the crowded 90MHz area on Saturday (17th). This time it was a test transmission from **Meridian FM** on 90.3MHz. The station announced that it was supplying community radio for Greenwich.

**Newcastle-Upon Tyne.** STS made their now regular broadcasts from lunchtime until midnight, on both Saturday (10th) and Sunday (11th). The station was first logged early on Saturday afternoon when it was clearly having numerous technical problems. Although the reception pattern does not appear to change from week to week, the quality and clarity of the audio unfortunately does. Saturday afternoon saw the return of the mains hum with a vengeance, which along with the collection of clicks, crackles and pops made listening quite interesting, if a little difficult. Once again transmissions were obviously live, as numerous mentions were made about the problems. One presenter was heard to quip "we're not 100% at the moment, but we're still on". He had a point. Saturday's transmissions were on 94.65MHz. Many of the personnel heard last week, again appeared this week, along with a sprinkling of new ones. The 'Armenian' we mentioned last week, should have actually read 'American'. On Sunday, the tx had moved down to 94.55MHz, and the audio was much improved. The signal itself seems to be best towards the centre of town, and gets weaker both to the East and West. Several BBC stations cause problems with interference at times, and it seems quite strange that SBS should choose this frequency when the 102-104MHz section of the band is totally clear for about 50 miles around Newcastle. It seems probable that SBS actually stands for 'Soul To Soul', although this has not yet been confirmed.

**Bristol** The last weekend of November saw no shortage of programming from free radio operators in this city. **Radio For The People** (103.7-stereo) however, were sounding rather

poor with varying levels of overload to the transmitter.

**Emergency Radio** (97.9-mono) were suffering from yet more technical difficulties during their regular Sunday (27th November), which was also thirty minutes late starting. The signal began at its new powerful level, but slowly weakened as the day wore on, until it was  $\frac{1}{2}$  of its original strength. The audio was accompanied by a few whistles and the dreaded buzz from switch-on, and the quality reduced further until 22:00 when it hit a muffled, distorted low. After this time, things improved drastically and a clean sound resumed. As well as several new promotions, some new jingles have also been monitored, and the programmes finished, as announced, in the early hours of Monday morning.

Another operation making it late, at 15:30 on Sunday (27th) was **Rough and Wicked** (104.95-pilot tone stereo), who due to staff shortages, and a long daily nominal schedule, have been somewhat intermittent during the previous week, and were not monitored at all on Friday (25th). However, with a mailing address now in operation of 10 Banner Road, Montpelier, Bristol BS6 5LZ, "Mix Master M" has invited prospective presenters to send in tapes for broadcast over the airwaves. Financially, R.A.W.'s future already looks bright, as one commercial, for a hip-hop night out (also being aired on Emergency Radio) is now being broadcast, as are numerous plugs for 'Soundsville Records'. Also mentioned was the chance to win 10 R.A.W. T-shirts in a competition. There are also three tickets to see 'Smith and Mighty' in a forthcoming concert, to be given away. R.A.W. Radio closed early on Sunday night, at 23:30 or thereabouts, before returning on Monday afternoon (28th) at 16:39, in mono, but with improved signal strength and audio than ever before. Full programming commenced at 17:00, and then throughout the evening.

**Savage Yet Tender Radio** (104.4-stereo) managed to switch on as normal at 20:00 on 27th, but unfortunately the hum problem was so bad, that at times it drowned out some of the quieter passages of music. A lengthy new show featuring light rock, country music and blues was on late in the evening, and was still being monitored at 01:00 on Monday (28th). The station thus continues to expand week by week.

#### SHORTWAVE STATIONS

Log for Sunday 18th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 08:58gmt.

6215kHz...RADIO CAROLINE, at 08:00gmt.

6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 09:00gmt.

6231kHz...W.L.R., at 12:04gmt.

6269kHz...RADIO PLUTO, at 11:04gmt.

6273kHz...ROCK RADIO INT., at 10:56gmt.

6280kHz...RADIO PANDORA INT., at 10:51gmt.

6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 11:30gmt.

6295kHz...RADIO GLORIA INT., at 13:05gmt. (QSO)

6300kHz...DX20, at 13:21gmt. (QSO)

6318kHz...CRUISIN SOLID GOLD RADIO, at 09:02gmt.

6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 11:20gmt.

6820kHz...RADIO PANDORA INT., at 08:50gmt.

6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL, at 09:04gmt.

7316kHz...RADIO SUSAN, at 09:08gmt.

7374kHz...RADIO DJ, at 11:19gmt.

Band conditions this morning were rather poor, which was a pity as we were attempting to monitor some of the Irish stations, for what could be some of their last few broadcasts. Thanks to David (Norwich) and Stuart (Staffs.) for their logs this week.

The Radio Fax broadcasts this week have included a tape of the original CBS presentation of 'War of the Worlds', the broadcast which during the early 1930's caused panic amongst the American listening public.

Prince Terry of Westside Radio announced that he would be on the air up until the end of the year, but was not quite sure yet, whether Westside Radio would continue regular broadcasts in 1989. Check out 6820kHz and 6280kHz on Friday 30th December, as special programmes may well be going out from early in the morning.

This morning saw the final Cruisin Solid Gold Radio programme on 6317kHz, but Kenny King said to monitor 6231kHz for further shows from the station until 31st December.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please Note that any letters to Riverside Radio International or Jolly Roger Radio at P.O. Box 39, Waterford, Ireland, should not mention the station name on the envelope.